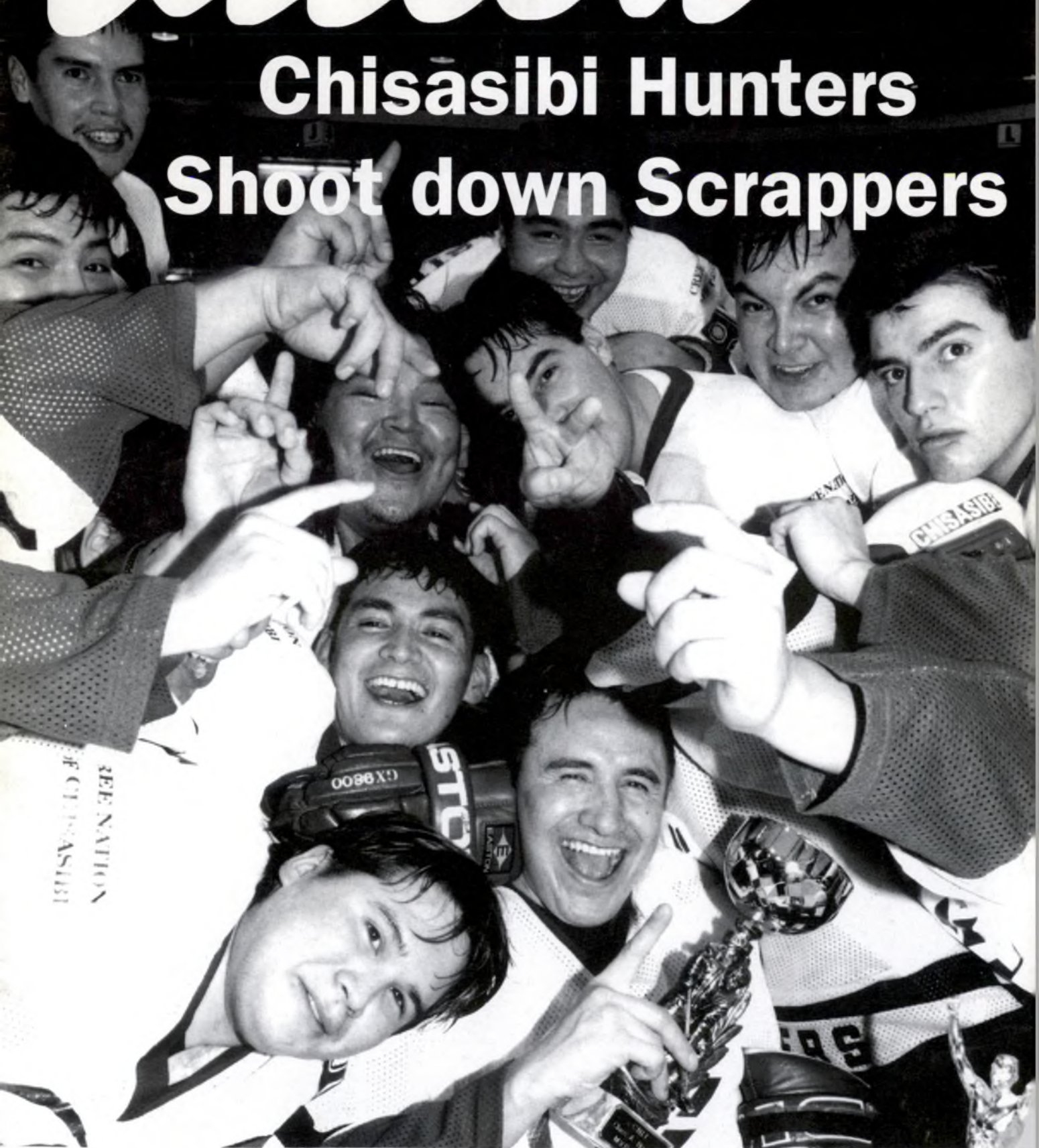


# Nation

Volume 6, No. 2 • December 18, 1998

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**Cree filmmaker Paul Rickard's award-winning documentary about the fall goose hunt in the James Bay region.**





# What it's all about

This Christmas I decided to let a story do the talking for me. You do not even have to be a Christian to understand the concepts of giving and sharing. Merry X-mas to everyone out there and have a safe happy holiday. Accept our best wishes for a great New Year for you and yours.

## The Cobbler and His Guest

There once lived in the city of Marseilles an old shoemaker, loved by his neighbors, who affectionately called him "Father Martin."

One Christmas Eve, as he sat alone in his little shop, he said to himself, "If tomorrow were the first Christmas, and if Jesus were to be born in Marseilles this night, I know what I would give Him!" He rose from his stool and took from a shelf overhead two tiny shoes of softest snow-white leather, with bright silver buckles. "I would give Him those, my finest work."

Replacing the shoes, he blew out the candle and retired to rest. Hardly had he closed his eyes when he heard a voice call his name... "Martin! Martin!" He felt a presence. "Martin, you have wished to see Me. Tomorrow I shall pass by your window. If you see Me, and bid Me enter, I shall be your guest at your table."

Martin did not sleep that night for joy. And before dawn he rose and swept and cleaned up his shop. On the spotless linen-covered table he placed a loaf of white bread, a jar of honey and a pitcher of milk, and over the fire he hung a pot of tea. Then he took up his patient vigil at the window.

Presently he saw an old street-sweeper pass by, blowing upon his thin, gnarled hands to warm them.

"Poor fellow, he must be half frozen," thought Martin. Opening the door he called out to him, "Come in, friend, be warm, and drink a cup of hot tea." And the invitation was gratefully accepted.

An hour passed, and Martin saw a young poor woman carrying a baby. She paused wearily to rest in the shelter of his doorway. The heart of the old cobbler was touched. Quickly he flung open the door. "Come in and warm yourself," he said. "You do not look well."

"I am going to the hospital. I hope they will take me and my baby boy in," she explained. "My husband is at sea, and I am ill, without a soul."

"Poor child!" cried Martin. "You must eat something while you are getting warm. Let me give a cup of milk to the little one. Why, you have put no shoes on him!"

"I have no shoes for him," sighed the mother sadly. "Then he shall have this lovely pair I finished yesterday." And Martin took down from the shelf the soft little snow-white shoes he had admired the evening before. He slipped them on the child's feet... They fit perfectly. And shortly the poor young mother left tearful with gratitude.

And Father Martin resumed his post at the window. Hour after hour went by, and although many people passed his window, and many needy souls shared his hospitality, the expected Guest did not appear.

"It was only a dream," he sighed, with a heavy heart. "He has not come."

Suddenly, so it seemed to his weary eyes, the room was flooded with a strange light. And to the cobbler's astonished vision there appeared before him, one by one, the poor street-sweeper, the sick mother and her child, and all the people whom he had helped during the day. And each smiled at him and asked, "Have you not seen me? Did I not sit at your table?" Then they vanished.

At last, out of the silence, Martin heard again the gentle voice repeating the old familiar words. "Whosoever shall receive one such in My name, receiveth Me... for I was ahungered, and ye gave Me meat; I was athirst, and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in... verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me."

by William Nicholls

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Photo: Neil Diamond  
Design: Sylvia Tennisco



# reznotes

by Ndiamon

You know how people always complain about how expensive Christmas can be? It doesn't have to be that way. Christmas was meant to be joyful and merry. Here are some gift ideas for the financially challenged.

Lottery tickets are a great idea and cost virtually nothing. If you buy 20 of them you've gone through your whole Christmas gift list for the year. Just make sure if they win, you get a cut. If the receiver is really dumb make sure you fill out the winner form in the back so you get to keep the money.

Recycling is not only good for the environment but also for your bank account. That sweater your poor grandmother made especially for you but you've never worn. Why not bestow it on cousin Jane, who gave you a lottery ticket last Christmas. Your old, out-of-style clothing can make excellent gifts. For instance, those old bell bottoms you haven't been able to fit into since '75 will look great on someone who didn't know you then. Isn't it about time that style came back?

A friend had this idea: Throughout the year (you can start now) steal those little knick knacks your friends have on display in their homes. Wrap them up for Christmas. Your heart will swell with pride and joy come Christmas morning when they say to you with tears of gratitude, "It's just like the one we lost! However did you know?"

You can also lift notepads, pencils, pens, binders, markers, books, staplers, even calculators if you're good and stealthy, from your office for that special student or new businessperson in your life.

Seinfeld's George Costanza was a genius. He sent out Christmas cards saying a donation has been made in your name to the "Human Foundation." There was no such foundation. But hey, there could be one right? They'll never know. They never check up on it because that's really tacky.

If you have an old watch just buy a new wrist band for it and presto! Another beautiful and thoughtful gift. Tell them it's a family heirloom.

Collect those candies from restaurants and put them in a jar over the year and tie a bow on it and place it under the tree.

If you're at all poetically inclined, how

about writing a sonnet on that office stationery to your lover. Chicks dig that kinda stuff.

You can apply to join music, book and video clubs. They usually give away at least 12 tapes, books and videos. All for 99 cents! That's 36 more people you can cross off your list.

Give friends recordings of your own CD's. Or if you're reeeaaally cheap and narcissistic go to Dollarama, buy a plastic frame and insert a photograph of yourself. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

You could also buy liquid dispensers for a dollar a piece and fill them up with that sweet-smelling soap from certain fancy restaurants and give those away. Steal those small shampoos, lotions, shoe polish and even towels from hotels and give those away. Ashtrays, shot glasses, coasters, those baskets they put snacks in from bars. Salt and pepper shakers and silverware from restaurants are also very thoughtful.

Here's an idea from a fellow cheap-skate: Go to a department store cologne or make-up counter and ask for free samples. They'll be a bit bitchy but if you persist they just give up the goods.

"Re-gifting" is also a wise option. For example, if someone gives you a gift and you don't really like it, save the gift wrapping, change the name tag, rewrap the gift and voila! Another gift to give.

Apply for a credit card at a plaza. It doesn't matter if the company will approve your application. You can still get a freebie with the application. Usually pens, tote bags... Collect those over the year. They make great stocking stuffers.

Restaurant gift certificates are also great gift ideas. They're very cheap. Especially the ones from McDonald's.

This one requires a bit of work so I never use it: Take your largest plant, snip off a few branches, pot them, let them grow a bit and wrap them up for Christmas morning.

All these techniques are best practiced throughout the year to keep you in the Christmas spirit. After all, isn't it the thought that counts? By the way don't try any of these on me. I know all the tricks in the book. Merry Christmas to you all.

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# Nation





## \$1.7-BILLION RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL LAWSUIT

Lawyer Russell Rakes is spearheading what is being called the first-ever class-action suit against a residential school. The class-action suit is demanding \$1.7 billion to compensate all the First Nations children who attended the Mohawk Residential School in Branford, Ont., between 1834 and 1970.

The suit says the children were physically, emotionally and sexually abused while at the school. The lawsuit is being laid against the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of Huron and the federal government. At present over 600 former Native students have joined in the lawsuit and more are signing up at a rate of about 10 a day, according to Rakes. An estimated 100 to 150 Crees attended the school.

Rakes expects the court action to take three to five years, saying class-action lawsuits take "more work and more sweat" to make something this big move.

The suit recently received a boost when on October 27 of this year the United Church of Canada issued the strongest and plainest apology yet by any of the plaintiffs involved in other residential-school lawsuits. (The United Church is not a defendant in the Mohawk school case.)

"I am here to speak the words many people have wanted to hear for a long time. I apologize for the pain and suffering our church's involvement in the residential-school system has caused," said Reverend Bill Phipps on behalf of the United Church at a press conference in Toronto.

Previous statements by the government and churches had used words like "reconciliation," "repentance" and "confession," but none had

used the word "apologize" because of fear of increasing their liability in lawsuits.

Phipps said, "I offer you our most sincere apology. You did nothing wrong. You were and are the victims of evil acts that cannot under any circumstances be justified or excused." Phipps went on to add the present generations have received many "blessings" from their ancestors, but must also accept their burdens.

The apology is good news to lawyer Russell Rakes. "It could send a message to the government and other churches that it's time to start dealing with this. It definitely makes it easier to talk than when someone is denying responsibility. That just makes people take hard stances on both sides. I hope the United Church is signaling that this is the direction to go."

Rakes said the Anglican Church has also issued an apology of sorts, but doesn't clearly accept legal responsibility for any wrong-doing. Rakes wonders whether the church will admit to a "moral wrong" only to deny a legal wrong.

Rakes is working on another suit involving Shingwuk School in Sioux Saint Marie. He has 100 people signed up and is looking to talk to First Nations people who attended school there.

The federal government has admitted to settling 220 individual residential-school claims out of court, in which criminal convictions had already been obtained beforehand, and the issues of liability were beyond dispute.

Former students of either Shingwuk or Mohawk Residential School are encouraged to phone (519) 672-9330 and ask for Rachelle Bertz.

by William Nicholls

## SECRET MILITARY UNIT SPIED ON NATIVES

A special unit of Canada's military spied on Native protesters and soldiers, and installed secret video cameras to monitor Defence Department employees suspected of theft even though it didn't have warrants to do so.

Files obtained by The Ottawa Citizen through access-to-information legislation show the special operations branch of the Canadian Forces special investigations unit installed secret surveillance cameras to monitor soldiers and civilian employees on at least six occasions between 1993 and 1995 at bases across the country.

The branch's mandate is to investigate espionage and terrorism, and gather information on immediate security threats.

Lawyers say the military is required to obtain warrants before using secret cameras to spy on employees. The documents reveal only one warrant was issued to the military for the use of covert video cameras during that period.

Documents also show that the secretive military unit spied on Native protesters at Ipperwash in 1993; the next year, it was put on alert to sneak into Oka, Que., and the surrounding Native reserves when tensions there increased.

The unit is armed with over \$1 million in high-tech surveillance gear. The surveillance at Ipperwash was one of the unit's most extensive missions.

The land was taken from the Native people during WWII for military training. The protesters were frustrated the Feds were stalling on returning the property. A special operations team hid in the bushes, photographing and recording the Natives' every movement.

Less than a year later, the team was preparing to spy on Natives in Quebec. Tensions at Kanehsatake were mounting and in late January 1994 Mohawks fired as many as 60 bullets at two military aircraft.

The spy teams were told to be ready to move out within a few hours to collect intelligence. They were armed, but were warned to "use discretion."

-SOURCE: THE EASTERN DOOR  
(Originally published in The Ottawa Citizen)



## We know very little

### Letter to *The Nation*.

I really don't know where I want to go with this. I'm hoping you'll bear with me and maybe get my feel.

My overall empathy for the separation dispute has been with the French people. As a matter of fact I was looking for information to support my side when I happened upon *The Nation*. Now I'm feeling somewhat like a heel. I, as an "outsider," am in the dark about the people this would effect, or more accurately who it is effecting now.

How come I have never heard the side of the people? How come I had no idea about facts like 2/3's of the lands of Quebec are Territorial? That 95 per cent of you's wouldn't want to separate with your reasons.

Why aren't these articles and facts freely available to the rest of Canada? I guess the squeaky wheel gets the oil. I would really love to see your people start to squeak. I need it, so does the rest of Canada. It seems you're trying to do your own thing, trying to be your own. You're a true commu-

nity all on its own. You must understand that right now, at this moment I've come to realize that I've been wrong and I'm angry at myself for not seeking out the facts. I read in an article from *The Nation* someone saying something about how "Oka" doesn't do anyone any good. On the one hand I agree, only because it only showed the paint, not the people behind it.

I'm only in mid-Ontario but I may as well be on Mars for all the good I'm being told. The way the media covered that story, the white media, be it English or French, there was no real representation of the people to the rest of Canada, or at least here. Why isn't this paper sitting in the rack at my doctor's office? Why doesn't the rest of Canada know the legal fights that you're facing and will face if there is any separation? Why don't you form a cross-Canada committee? There are many individual Aboriginal organizations across Canada. You can utilize their facilities to spread the facts, the real story.

When talking with other "out" Canadians (those of outside of Quebec) we think about

possibly losing Quebecers as we know them (French). I have never considered that a whole people could be lost, not from us but from themselves.

Consider making a special edition especially designed for distribution to the rest of Canada. Realize we know very little and we would need an overall picture. I don't know. I just feel really bad for being ignorant.

**Rosanne Yelle  
Barrie, Ontario**

## Thanks to all

### Letter to *The Nation*.

To whom it may concern. Thanks! To all the wonderful people I met when I was in the James Bay area. I went to seven of the nine communities to talk about solvent abuse addictions. It was really good! THE PEOPLE ARE REALLY KIND. I hope to come back there sometimes. My deepest prayers are with the young people who suffer from any chemical addictions in the James Bay areas. I was there for the month of February.

*continued on page 44*



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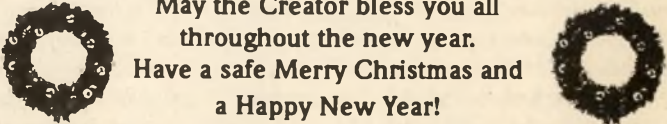
**To all the Cree nations  
of Eeyou Istchee**

Christmas is the favorite holiday for everyone, especially for children. It is a time for families to get together to celebrate the holiday in remembrance of the Holy Child who was sent by His Father to earth to save us.

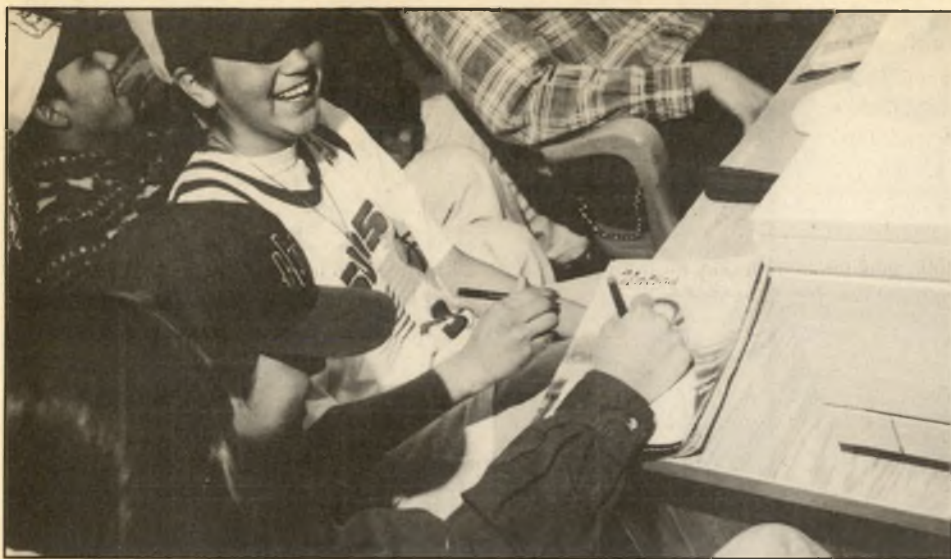
All the children everywhere must be anxious to find out what Santa is giving them this Christmas. Most of them must be counting the days before Santa arrives. It all depends what Santa will give them whether they've been good through the year. Make this Christmas a special holiday for your loved ones and spend quality time with them.

May the Creator bless you all throughout the new year.  
Have a safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**FROM THE WHAPMAGOOSTUI FIRST NATION**







## HEAD START A NO-START FOR FIRST NATIONS

It sounded like a good idea at the time. The federal government would put \$15 million into a Head Start program for First Nations reserves across Canada.

Head Start is a pre-school program created in the U.S. to give disadvantaged inner-city kids under 6 a helping hand. They learn how to learn, while parents get help in areas like health, nutrition and social support. In Native communities, Head Start is also supposed to involve learning Native cultures and languages.

But since Head Start was announced here for First Nations in October, the program has run into a wall of controversy.

A meeting called by Health Canada to discuss the program in Montreal ended bitterly after only half a day, even though it was scheduled for two days. First Nations representatives from across Quebec said the way Head Start had been set up was unacceptable, and are demanding a meeting with federal Health Minister Allan Rock.

"Basically, Head Start is a no-start for the First Nations until our concerns are resolved," said Garry Carboneil, executive director of a health commission set up under the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

Carboneil said he advised health officials in Quebec as early as last spring that the way it was proceeding would be unacceptable to Native people.

He was concerned that First Nations wouldn't have enough say in running the program; that Health Canada was giving Quebec and Labrador Natives only \$910,000 out of the \$15 million (about half what he said they deserve); and that Health Canada was

taking \$115,000 of that amount for administration, leaving only \$795,000 for programs.

Also, Quebec First Nations were given only two weeks to design programs that would qualify for funding. Carboneil said this wasn't nearly enough time. He said only about \$250,000 worth of programs could have been designed in time out of the \$795,000 available.

What would Health Canada do with the rest of the money? Health officials were apparently noncommittal about what would happen to the unused funds. Carboneil fears the unspent money will just be swallowed up by Health Canada to cover budget shortfalls in other areas.

"They didn't give a lot of time to the communities to design the programs," said a Cree representative at the Montreal meeting, held November 12. "The needs are great, but the resources are scarce."

One other problem: Health Canada proposed to create a six-member advisory committee to help run Head Start. Carboneil called the committee a waste of scarce funds, and said the Head Start funds should go straight to the AFN.

"Give it to the First Nations," Carboneil said. "Let us distribute the money equitably and evenly. I think we know better what the criteria are."

Richard Legault, Health Canada's regional director, said Head Start is at a "standstill" because he doesn't have the power to alter the guidelines on the program established by the Treasury Board.

First Nations officials are to meet Legault and the deputy health minister this week.

by Alex Roslin

## Two girls lose lives in snowmobile accident

Tragedy struck in Lac Simon on November 17 when two Cree girls lost their lives in a snowmobile accident.

The incident occurred after dark at around 6:40 p.m., as a young local man took the girls and the little brother of one of the girls on a ride after one of the season's first snowfalls. The accident occurred just outside the community on a trail that leads to the lake.

The snowmobile wasn't traveling overly fast, but suddenly a loader loomed up in front of them and the driver couldn't avoid it. The children were all in the sled; only the little boy had a helmet on.

One of the girls, Mary Trish Beverly Happyjack Wabanonik, 11, died upon impact from head injuries. Crystal Mianscum, 11, died on her way to hospital also with head injuries.

Her brother, aged 8, was seriously injured and his arm was amputated in a hospital in Montreal. The driver suffered a broken rib and arm.

The families of the girls are concerned about helping the driver, who was apparently very troubled by what happened, and they want to support him in this difficult time.

## Should they stay or should they go now?

The Quebec government is taking new steps to plant Radisson firmly in Iiyiyuuschii.

From Natural Resources Minister Guy Chevrette comes a press release announcing new measures to promote development in James Bay.

Among the measures: "recognize the strategic importance of Radisson in the development of Northern Quebec."

Shirley Bishop, the minister's spokeswoman, explained that Radisson "could benefit the Crees." It is a village "already established in the North. It could bring in tourism," she added. "There's no question of increasing the size of Radisson. There's no question of leaving either."

Asked whether Quebec has abandoned its controversial policy of doubling Radisson's population, Bishop responded, "We don't have a Machiavellian plan. If there

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**The Chief,  
the Band Council,  
and the staff of the  
Eastmain First Nation  
wish everyone a very  
Merry Christmas  
and all the best  
for the New Year.**

A safe and happy holiday season to all.

## chlorophylle

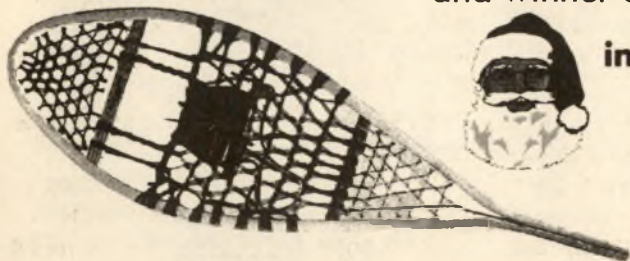


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continued from page 7

are employees who choose voluntarily to move there, they have that right."

But Hydro-Quebec doesn't seem to share Chevrette's enthusiasm for Radisson. "I'm not sure it's really strategic," said Hydro spokeswoman Sylvie Tremblay when asked about Chevrette's press release.

"For us we don't think it's profitable. We also have to consider the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which gives Crees exclusive use of this territory. We don't encourage permanent settlement of a white population there."

Tremblay said it's "more profitable" if Hydro workers are just flown in for their shift for a few days and live in the south. "This allows the Abitibi and Saguenay regions, where there is a lot of unemployment, to develop more," she said.

## Local son to judge Junos

Nemaska's own Bertie Wapachee has been chosen to serve as a juror in the 28th

annual Juno awards, which will be held March 7 in Hamilton and broadcast live on CBC TV. Bertie will be judging the Best Music of Aboriginal Canada Recording category.

-SOURCE: Dave Auger

## NWT premier slammed for conflict-of-interest

NWT Premier Don Morin has been slammed by his own conflict-of-interest commissioner for grave violations of the law and sully the reputation of the office of the premier, according to a report in *Nunatsiag News*.

The commissioner, Anne Crawford, recommended that the premier lose his seat for wilfully and deliberately failing to separate his private interests from his duty to the people of the NWT.

"When a member uses his or her office to put cash into their own pockets, then I would take the position that the trust of the people has been betrayed to the point where the seat should be declared vacant," wrote

Crawford in a 150-page report.

The complaints revolve around a "hugely profitable" NWT government lease to rent space in an office building. The day after the lease was signed, it was bought by two local businessmen who happened to be Morin's friends.

Crawford also criticized the premier for trying to obscure the true nature of his dealings and attacking anyone who tried to expose him.

"When Mr. Morin's friends - and I use that label advisedly - obtained, under the most extraordinary circumstances, a hugely profitable office lease, which no one else had been able to get, Mr. Morin used his office and authority to tell everyone that the deal was fair and that those who complained were just whiners and snivellers," Crawford said.

"Mr. Morin was not believable because his own position was already compromised by accepting favours and benefits."

NWT assembly members are now reviewing the report.

# Green Grass, Running Water

*Green Grass, Running Water*

by Thomas King

Harper Collins: Toronto, 1993

(Tel.: 416-975-9334)

BY RHONDA SHERWOOD

You first meet Coyote, who is trying to tell that famous story, which always seems to start with "in the beginning."

But seeing how Coyote is a coyote, you have to expect some trouble. You won't be disappointed.

Then Lionel comes into the picture. Everyone knows a "Lionel." A bit of a has-been-that-never-was-but-thinks-he-still-might-one-day-become-but-probably-won't-'cuz-he-makes-all-these-big-plans-but-never-actually-does-anything-about-it-anyway type of guy.

And despite how frustrating and sad that can be, you still love him because he is a sweet guy who doesn't want to hurt anyone. So you just say to yourself, "Well, he's still looking for himself. One day he'll figure it out."

At this point, it is only appropriate that

the Lone Ranger, Hawkeye, Robinson Crusoe and Ishmael finally show up.

Despite their age, these guys know how to have fun; they also have great taste in clothes. They're the type who really gets around, if you know what I mean...

They also tend to make you laugh.

Not that the Coyote doesn't make you laugh.

Not that Lionel doesn't makes you laugh, either.

But you kind of laugh at Lionel for the wrong reasons.

Don't worry about Lionel though, 'cuz someone out there is looking after Lionel. He just doesn't know it yet.

In fact, it is probably better if you go to the bathroom each time before you pick up this book, and that you don't drink too much tea while you are reading this book; you may pee your pants.

And don't forget Eli. Everyone in James Bay is bound to have a special connection to Eli. I would explain why, but I might get sued by Hydro-Quebec.

Of course there are other characters, but these ones here are the ones you want to

look out for.

Oh, yeah, you'll probably meet Moby-Jane. She is introduced on page 163, a page that should not be missed. So, when you get to page 162, brace yourself, sit up straight, pay attention and don't be listening to the radio or have the TV on in the other room. In fact, kick everyone out of the house, because, unless Coyote has pulled another one of his tricks, page 163 will most likely follow right after. And like I mentioned before, you don't want to miss this page.

And don't let Ahab try to tell you any different, because you are about to meet Moby Jane. I feel it is only right to warn you about Ahab. I'm sure Ahab is a nice enough person deep down inside, if you were able to get him alone without all his buddies around and talk seriously with him.

You see, Ahab tends to confuse a lot of things, but is too stupid and stubborn to admit he is wrong. You've probably met quite a few Ahab's in your lifetime.

I'd tell you more, but I would just ruin the surprise, and all the laughs.

Listen, I would never steer you wrong, so if you only read one book in your life, read this book. And trust me, you will read it more than once.



# val d'or

hockey & broomball tournament

# 1998



10 close call for hunters.

*the Nation*

DECEMBER 18, 1998

PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND



**The annual val d'or** hockey-slash-broomball tournament has always been about the thrill of victory and bar-hopping and the agony of defeat and hangovers. That's been less so for the past few years - ever since they stopped serving drinks in the snack bar above the ice. We asked some people at this year's gathering what they remembered most from tournaments of yore. It wasn't who scored at what time against whom, but the non-stop parties in and out of the arena. But like the scarred faces of net-minders, those days and nights are gone. Almost.

by alex roslin & neil diamond

**friday** Midnight in Louvicourt, 26 kilometers outside of Val d'Or. The bar at the Hotel Royale is nearly empty save for three Algonquin women quietly finishing off their beers and two underage Abitibiennes. At the lunch counter five Americans who look as if they haven't showered or shaved for weeks are eating chicken and pea soup. Their 4x4 parked outside has six or seven frozen caribou in the back. They look very proud of themselves. Big mighty hunters. They probably didn't even have to leave their warm and cozy trucks to kill them. Nonetheless, they're very proud.

**saturday** We make our way to the City of Gold at a fashionably late hour sometime in the afternoon. The arena is packed with fans and we take in our first game, after saying hi to a few friends. Waswanipi is playing Waskaganish in Class C. The game is tight, the hockey fast and furious, and the crowd excited. We are sitting beside a rabid Waswanipi fan armed with a very loud signal horn. With blood flowing from our ears, we duck a few times as the puck comes flying over the glass. Waswanipi scores the first goal with 1.6 seconds left in the first period. Soon, Waswanipi leads by 2-0. Then, Waskaganish scores to bring it to 2-1, but Waswanipi hits goal again (3-1), followed by another Waskaganish goal (3-2). With 3:55 left in the game, Waskaganish ties it up 3-3. "Now that's good entertainment!" exclaims the Waswanipi fan. Tensions mount in the stands as Waskaganish gets a 2-minute penalty with only 2:55 left in the game. But Waswanipi can't turn it into a point and the game ends in a tie. A great match.

## saturday

**2 pm** We are eager for more hockey, but decide to head over to the infamous "rowdiest bar" of James Bay on world-famous 3rd Avenue to check out some of the legendary off-ice Val d'Or tournament action. The early-afternoon celebrations are in full swing as hockey fans (and a few players) lift a toast to their favourite team and catch up on tournament gossip. We're sitting at a dark bar downstairs when we are surrounded



brian bearskin & glen salt celebrate.



hard hitting action  
inside the hunters' zone.





norman hester at the waskaganish/wemindji game.



12 face-off near the waswanipi net.



by well-wishers and admirers of *The Nation* who appear out of nowhere like a moose in the night. One fellow journalist was taking the opportunity to break a two-year dry spell. After a friendly conversation, we're back to the arena in good spirits.

## saturday late afternoon

**Waskaganish vs. Mistissini**

Not sure which "Class" teams were playing, but these fellas had lots of hockey class. They scrambled back and forth, but Waskaganish ended up dominating with a 4-0 victory. Best move of the game: In the 2nd period, the puck wound up behind the Mistissini goalie just inches outside the net with the opposite team swarming around. The fast-acting goalie did some kind of a back flip and landed on the puck with his back. Most painful moment: A Waskaganish player's pass went too high and hit a team member in the nose. (Late breaking news: Class A game.)

**Moose Factory vs. Lac Simon**

The Moose Factory Scrappers aren't very scrappy today. Some of their fellow team members go AWOL for reasons best left out of a family magazine. The Scrappers who do make it to the game are late getting on the ice and don't even have time to get warmed up. With only one or two players on the bench, compared to Lac Simon's seven, things start off badly right away for Moose Factory. Lac Simon rams in its first goal within 30 seconds, then scores again twice before MF can respond. In the 3rd period, two MF players are sent to the penalty box

val d'or hockey & broomball tournament 98



ronald blueboy races to the wemindji net.



goalie exhibits gymnastic skills.





hands up, baby, hands up.



action, fast and furious.



to get some much-needed rest. The Scrappers still have a little life in them and manage to unleash a few half-decent shots on the LS net, but the goalie fends them off expertly. Five-to-one is the final tally, man.

## val d'or hockey & broomball tournament 98

wall," someone says).

## saturday night

The Apollo on 3rd Avenue. The place is dead except for a girl from Waskaganish and three French guys playing pool. Too boring so we head over to the Chateau Inn and quietly grab a table near the bar. The place is mostly filled with Crees of all shapes and sizes. On the dance floor are two guys dancing with Christmas garlands wrapped around them. Several people stop by our table to offer congratulations on our fifth year, advice on how to cover Cree news, and their likes and dislikes in *The Nation*. Closing time and we're invited to a party by members of one of the Wemindji teams at the Monaco. We politely decline and head back to Louvicourt.

**2:34 pm.** We are back at the arena after a loooong night's sleep and lots of coffee at the Hotel Royale. The playoffs are under way in Class B broomball: Waskaganish vs. Lac Simon. The players aren't afraid to shove and be shoved, tackle their opponents and go diving for the ball. Waskaganish scores, but LS comes right back with three goals of its own to take it 5-1. The Lac Simon players dance on the benches to the music in between plays. Bertie Wapachee arrives at the Waskaganish bench to offer them encouragement, but even his support isn't enough for the team to come back.

## waswanipi vs. chisasibi broomball

The Class A broomball finals feature a little necessary roughness. It's a close one with no score in the first period. Charles Bobbish sits down nearby and proudly points out his daughter who's trying to hustle up a play for the Chisasibi team. There's a lot of horn blowing in this one. "It's a horny game,"

## saturday eve

### wemindji vs. sept-iles

This is a real nail-biter of a game. Wemindji scores first and Neil confidently announces: "Ah, Wemindji is going to win now. They have the psychological advantage." Little did he know... Wemindji leads 2-0 and Neil is thinking he's some kind of prophet. But by the end of the 2nd period, Sept-Iles ties it up with two power-play goals. Neil is still confident: "No, I won't take it back. I still think they can win. I believe in them." With 1:11 left in the game, Sept-Iles takes the lead (4-3). Asked how he feels, Neil laughs nervously. "They're going to score, man. They're going to do it," he says after a long pause. At 11 seconds, Wemindji takes out their goalie and puts six men on, but it's still not enough. Jinxed by Neil Diamond!

We wander over to Rink 2 and a player is lying on a stretcher surrounded by people. We are told he collided with another player and has been lying there 20 minutes waiting for an ambulance! The crowd silently watches and hopes he's okay.

## saturday midnight

### wemindji vs. waswanipi

Coming back from a few cordials, we see three cop cars outside the arena and we are met by an excited player from the Chisasibi Hunters, who have just won a big game against Mistissini. He tells us someone with the Mistissini team took a swing at a referee's head with a hockey stick because he thought a bad call had been made. He missed and grazed the ref's shoulder. Later on, with 30 seconds left in the game, another Mistissini player charged the ref in the middle of the rink and had to be restrained by his team mates. The clock runs down and security had to escort the ref from the arena. At about the same time, a fight erupts in the stands between two fans. The cops are called in, the perps are pursued and statements taken. It's just like the good old days!

In the Wemindji vs. Waswanipi game, a ref is dazed when a puck hits him in the chin. It's a tight game that goes into over-time. Wemindji ends up winning 2-1.

Moose Factory finds some of its "lost" team-mates for the match against Waskaganish at 1:30 a.m. Everyone is sleepy, including the horn-blower who sounds like a depressed moose. The announcer is mumbling into the mike in a Japanese accent. Waskaganish fans are silent as MF wins 5-0. The Scrappers' goalie stands out with some great saves ("he's a



on the girls' side: broomball finals.





# PARTENARIAT V.ÀN'DD&J WITCKAWIN

The Partnership Project organizing committee wishes to express its gratitude to the generous sponsors of the Partnership Forum which was held on November 26th in Val d'Or. The entrepreneurs, through their contribution in making this event a success, are an excellent example of the continuous efforts of the Val d'Or business community and the Native communities to bring our people together.

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Val d'Or Chamber  
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City of Val d'Or



quipped Charles. The game is tied 1-1 when a coaching mistake leaves six players on the ice for Chisasibi, leading to a penalty. But Waswanipi can't turn it into a point. It goes into OT. After 20 minutes of OT, still no score! In the second OT period, Chisasibi again has too many players on and gets a penalty. Finally, Chisasibi scores with 10:21 left.

#### **Moosonee vs. Mistissini OT**

The oldsters push the puck around and engage in a little friendly jostling in yet another close game. One Mistissini player gets a four-minute penalty for some infraction. Moosonee ends up winning the finals 2-1.

#### **Wemindji vs. Waskaganish class C**

"It's gonna be a close one," Neil predicts before this game starts. When Wemindji scores 19 seconds into the game, he starts to worry: "That can't be good for Waskaganish." Wemindji keeps on keepin' on, winning easily 4-1.

#### **Moose Factory scappers vs. Chisasibi Hunters class A**

We miss the Class B Finals because of a previous dinner engagement with the lovely and talented Val d'Or personality Yvon Boisvert and his charming wife Colette. We've gotta eat sometime, dammit! But we're back in just in time for the final game. And what a game it is! The goalies and defense dominate early on with excellent plays. In the second period, Glen Salt, number 44 of the Hunters, rams the first goal in from 20 metres out seconds after a faceoff. The game really heats up. The Scappers' Greg Moore, #77, hits back with a power-play goal in the third. Moose Factory gets a penalty with 3:24 left and at 2:16 Chisasibi turns it into gold with a great goal by Francois Bobbish. They win 2-1.

## **sunday midnight**

The Chateau Inn. A few hours after Chisasibi and Moose Factory's championship game, and the house is almost full. Members of the Hunters and the Scappers are in attendance enjoying celebratory drinks. A very drunk young man keeps bumping into everybody. A while later he staggers to our side of the table and slurs, "Who are you?" Neil tells him but it doesn't seem to register. He grabs him roughly by the collar. "Are you so and so's brother?" Neil asks trying to calm him down. He nods yes and lets him go. Whew. Then, he grabs Neil's collar again and spits on him, saying angrily, "I hate that guy!" He lets go of Neil and staggers off to the dance floor. Later he is dancing on one of the tables by the dance floor and, still later, wrestling with a bouncer.

"Where are you guys from?" a fat guy asks. "You guys should get a haircut," he offers. "This is the '90's. Your hair's supposed to be short." He says as he runs his hands through his thick hair which makes him look like he's wearing a football helmet. We don't bother to ask him why hair should be short in the '90's. We leave with the crowd at closing time and a fight between lovers is just beginning outside in the falling snow. We do a quick drive-by, shooting photos of the crowds gathered outside the two Indian bars, and head back to Louvicourt at 4:00 a.m. And that's the last we saw of the Sin City tournament. And, like Lot, we didn't dare look back. 20

DECEMBER 18, 1998

## **val d'or hockey & broomball tournament 98**



game results and player awards weren't available at press time. we'll print them next issue.





"ד "ד "ד  
 י ג.ז.ב"ח ל.  
 ג.ד.ר.ת.ב.נ.  
 ז"ז.ב.ב.ב.ב.  
 ג.ז.ב.

Ho! Ho! Ho!  
 Merry  
 Christmas to  
 one and all!

*Thomas C. Crie*



LE COUNCIL DES CRÉES (EYEU ASTCHEE)  
 GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYEU ASTCHEE)  
 GRAND COUNCIL DES CRÉES (EYEU ASTCHEE)

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES  
 (EYEU ASTCHEE)



LE C.A.R.  
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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY



# Flying

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

The airplane has a special mystique in remote First Nations communities up the James Bay coast. Daily flights into isolated communities like Attawapiskat are a major part of the goings-on in everyone's day. Our lives to a great degree depend on and revolve around the take-offs and landings of these great steel birds.



It stands to reason that the airplane is still regarded with such awe in northern isolated communities. After all, it is the only way out of town. The plane is the life-blood of these communities and brings in food and goods so that we can survive. In the old days before the coming of the European, when we lived off the land, we were not dependent on things arriving from the outside world. But today much of our diet, our clothes and just about everything arrives by plane.

Some supplies are brought in on the winter road, but this can only be done for a couple of months when the mushkeg is frozen solid. During the summer and part of the spring and fall, we can count on the barge for supplies and mostly larger items and building materials.

As a youngster, when I was growing up in Attawapiskat, I would run with the other boys to greet an incoming flight or wave as one was taking to the air. Every kid up the coast has wanted to be a pilot at some time in his or her young life. We were in awe of the Air Creebec pilots in their neatly pressed uniforms and pilot caps. The whining sound of an airplane stopped all of us in our tracks to look skyward in wonder.

I grew up with a great respect for airplane pilots. Many times I heard stories about a legendary Native pilot known up and down the coast and far and wide throughout the entire country. Lindy Louttit became larger than life when at an early age he got his pilot's license and began to fly throughout his beloved Mushkego country.

Just about everyone in my dad's generation has a story about Lindy. He flew everyone everywhere, including trappers, hunters, magazine writers, photographers, government representatives and sport hunters. Legend has it that he rarely had to count on technology for his bearings, as he knew every mile of ground around the James Bay area. He seemed to be able to land where he pleased and take off in places no one every thought it could be possible.

Lindy has aged a little since those days but he is still a big man and a strong man with a huge heart and a friendly smile. He isn't flying these days but has put his incredible energy and winning personality into the promotion and marketing the art of his daughter, Betty Lincez, Wabimeguil. Her vibrant and insightful paintings have made her well-known all over North America.

Recently, a friend loaned me a copy of a publication that had been produced by the government which featured the story of Lindy, the legendary bush pilot. It was easy for me to identify with the magic of the airplane that captivated Lindy from the time he was a kid. The next time I see him, the kid in me is going to want some stories from his flying days and perhaps I can pass them on to you.



Hockey News Special Edition

## Hockey is a tradition in Cree territory

*Midget AAA weekend in Chisasibi a total success!!*



Chief Violet Pachanos



PHOTOS ERNEST WEBB

### BY DOLORES AUDET-WASHIPABANO

All activities planned during the weekend of Nov. 28 & 29 in Chisasibi were not only successful but also very appreciated by all guests (80 of them). As they concluded, someone said: "We heard about Cree hospitality, but it went beyond our expectations."

Although the Forestiers d'Amos let the two games slip away and fell to last position in their division, the players will remember Chisasibi!

Charly Washipabano was awarded a plaque from the community of Chisasibi, given by Chief Violet Pachano, for past efforts and sacrifices over the years. Washipabano said: "Of all the awards I have received, this one is certainly the most special one!"

### Weistche leaves... and comes back!

Ryan Weistche never came to Chisasibi with the Forestiers as one day before departure, he said he could not handle it any more (cultural changes, language barriers, communication, school), which led him to leave his team and choosing to move to the Ontario side... But after serious thought, one week later he called the Forestiers and asked to come back with his team... and was given a second chance by the Forestiers!

But hey! These things happen every week in every team of that league... The fact is, it gets tougher and tougher as you go higher... That's when you have to be stronger and "equipped" to make the right choices... As the road to "the" league gets much, much narrower...

Anyway, the project of having Midget AAA teams in James Bay was a "premier," supported by all recreation directors, and George Diamond showed his interest in the Midget AAA president repeating the project next year in Waskaganish!

This event had been possible by Nike Underwear (just kidding! ha!) by all volunteers, all sponsors, fans and foster families. Many thanks!

It shows when you get together as volunteers you can accomplish... Big!

More Hockey News on page 23

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Charly on the Bench



Dolores



Elder Abraham Cox  
said prayers before the match



Singing the National Anthem in Cree, Kathleen Kitty's class



The voices of Cree Hockey, Steven Matthew and Samson Snowboy

## HOME AND AWAY

How can you be away and home at the same time? It is possible when your name is Charly Washipabano. Charly was home when his hockey team Les Forestiers d'Amos, who were away from their home ice, came to Chisasibi for a two-game series. On the weekend of November 28, College Francais Montreal Bourassa also made the trip to Chisasibi to play against Les Forestiers. The teams are part of the Quebec Midget "AAA" Hockey League. The two-game series was initiated by Clifford and Dolores Washipabano, parents of Charly, who brought the teams in "with the intent of exposing a higher calibre of hockey to our younger athletes while promoting a cultural experience."

College Francais skated to victory in both games, which were played Saturday and Sunday. In the first game College Francais won with a score of five to three. On Sunday, College Francais again proved victorious with a score of 6-2.

Also on the program were exhibition games by the pee wee teams of Chisasibi and Wemindji before each game. The Chisasibi skating club provided between-period entertainment with their figure skating abilities.

The visiting teams were treated to the hospitality of the community with visits of the community, feasts, Pow Wow singing and dancing. Who knows, maybe this was just a warm up for the pros!?

- Ernest Webb



"...Put us in The Nation." Allen and Raymond.





# Neoskweskau Memorial Arena



**Cree Nation of Mistissini, Quebec**

*On behalf of the Neoskweskau Memorial Arena and the Organizing Committee,  
it is with our great pleasure to officially invite you to participate in:*

## **Neoskweskau Memorial Arena 12th Annual Invitational Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament January 21, 22, 23 & 24, 1999**

*Over \$28,000 in prize money and awards to be given away to five  
(5) different categories as follows:*

<b>CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TEAMS</b>	<b>INSCRIPTION FEE</b>	<b>CHAMPIONS</b>	<b>FINALISTS</b>
Men's Class "A"	6	\$800.00	\$6,000.00	3,500.00
Men's Class "B"	8	\$700.00	\$4,000.00	2,000.00
Old-Timers 35+	8	\$600.00	\$3,000.00	1,500.00
Womens Broomball "A"	6	\$700.00	\$4,000.00	2,000.00
Womens Broomball "B"	6	\$600.00	\$3,000.00	1,500.00

**\*\*Prize money may vary depending on the number of  
teams that register. The first teams to register and  
pay the registration fees will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.  
All other teams will be placed on stand-by.**

**The schedule will be ready Tuesday ,January 19, 1999. The deadline for teams to inform the  
Neoskweskau Memorial Arena of their arrival is Monday, January 18, 1999 before 1:00pm.**

**The Organizing Committee of this tournament will not make any changes in the schedule after  
this deadline date. There will be a \$200.00 penalty fee charged to the team requestng a  
schedule change, payable before their first game.**

**\*ALL TEAMS MUST SEND THEIR INSCRIPTION FEE IN FULL  
BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE!**

**Deadline to register: January 15, 1999**

**For more information contact: Errol Mianscum, Arena Manager (418) 923-3248  
Jean-Baptiste Loon, Recreation Coordinator (418) 923-3461  
Robie Petawabano, Assistant Coordinator (418) 923-3461  
Arena Fax: (418) 923-2430 - Recreation Office Fax (418) 923-3115**



**Chisasibi Centre Inc.**

P.O. Box 330 Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0  
Tel.: (819) 855-2838



The staff of the  
**Chisasibi Center Inc.**  
would like to wish everyone  
a very Merry Christmas.  
We wish you all a safe  
and happy holiday and  
may all your Christmas  
wishes come true.

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**HOCKEY NEWS**

Cont'd from page 21

## OTHER HOCKEY NEWS

The Mistissini Annual Invitational Minor Hockey & Broomball Tournament was Nov. 19-22.

Finals: Atom hockey - Waswanipi 6, Mistissini 2  
Bantam - Waswanipi 3, Waskaganish 2  
Cadette BB - Lac Simon 1, Waswanipi 0  
Midget BB - Waswanipi 1, Waskaganish 0  
Juvenile BB - Waswanipi 3, Nemaska 0  
Way to go Waswanipi!

**Ryan Sam** (Chisasibi) is the 2nd top scorer of Band-Ore Bantam AA in the Northeastern Ontario Minor Hockey League. Keep it up Ryan!

**Adele Napash** (Chisasibi) lives temporarily in Timmins, Ontario. She goes to school full-time, looks after her four children, plus two foster kids. Among them are four hockey players... Now, if you inquire about arenas in north-east Ontario, well you know who to ask!

### Our Cree Nation Bears!

Standing in Bantam CC League:

1st position

Cree Nation Bears: PJ 14, PG 14, PP 0, PN 0, Pts 28, BP 97, BC 32, +/-65

Keep going Bears... Looks good for the ticket to the Chrysler Cup!!!

For anyone interested, here's the Bantam CC Internet: <http://www.mygale.org/05/bantam>

**Eric Snowboy** and **Stanley Swallow** (Chisasibi) won consolation prizes in their first tournament in Gloucester, Dec 1 to 6 last. Congratulations, boys!

**Amy Diamond** is considered a future prospect for women's hockey. She will be invited to the next Team Ontario Under 17 evaluation camp during the 1999/2000 season. Rick Smith, head coach of the Willowdale Redwings Bantam AA team, says, "Her strength in both her arms and legs is exceptional for a girl her age. We are working on improving cardio-vascular fitness and her position play. She is currently our leading goal scorer and she has above-average puck control skills." Keep it up, Amy!

**Ernie Trapper** has been suspended indefinitely from the Chibougamau Ambassadors for hitting a referee. Rule #1 on every hockey rink, no matter what... Never hit a referee!

The upcoming **Minor Hockey & Broomball Tournament** is in Chisasibi next December 27-30. Categories: novice, pee-wee, midget, old timers (40 and over)... Register now!

All parents and coaches are invited to go see their recreation director to fill out the "Hockey Profile" and provide a photo of their son/daughter/player... so I can promote more of our little heroes!

Please let me wish everyone of you a very, very outdoor rink Christmas... Support the kids. Give and... share!

It's very hockey for now!





# NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS ARE STILL ON SALE

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DECEMBER 18, 1998



# Indian Red

BY MAURICE SWITZER

In the Oscar-winning film, *Forrest Gump's* mother said life was like a box of chocolates - a package of delights offering a never-ending series of surprises.

But for North American Indians, life is more like a box of crayons, a container in which there's a predictable slot for each and every shade.

Sheila Pratt, a primary school teacher from Maple Ridge, B.C., got her lesson in the Aboriginal facts of life when she noticed that one of the crayons in a box of 64 was labelled "Indian Red," although it was clearly a brownish hue.

"I would have a very hard time explaining to any of my students, whether of First Nations, South Asian, Europeans or other descent, how a brown colour could be labelled any shade of red," she wrote in a letter to Binney & Smith, the Pennsylvania-based manufacturers of Crayola crayons. "I am very disturbed that your company seems to be practicing this type of stereotyping. It does not promote respect amongst members of our community, nor does it build self-esteem in the individuals who might consider themselves the object of this label."

The corporate response to Ms. Pratt's inquiry was stereotypical in its own right. First, consumer affairs manager Ellyn Scott expressed surprise that anyone could possibly take offence: "In naming our indian red crayon, it was not our intention to make reference to Native Americans in describing the colour."

Step two; it's a tradition: "Most of our colour names are taken from the 'Universal Color Language and Dictionary of Names' published by the U.S. Bureau of Standards. Also, Webster's Dictionary defines indian red as a 'strong or moderate reddish brown.'"

And, finally, blame it on somebody else: "At Binney & Smith, we are constantly striving to develop new products and improve our existing items to meet consumer needs."

Okay, Ms. Scott. What happens if there's a ground-swell of support for some new crayon shades, say, "negro black," or "japanese yellow"; do the Binney & Smith scientists don their lab coats and whip up batches of these new hues to keep up with consumer demand?

As for relying on textbook definitions to justify the use of such outdated racist idioms as indian red, the dictionary on my desk contains some colloquialisms that would turn Ms. Scott's cheeks cherry pink, and would never make it past the watchful eyes of

the editor scanning this article. If the fact they have been published made words acceptable, Hitler would have worked until normal retirement age, and the Ku Klux Klan would be the Alabama chapter of the Rotary Club.

Some people say Amerindians are overly sensitive about such things. What difference does it really make if the official Boy Scout Handbook until 1960 said that pioneers fought Indians to protect their families from "savages"? Does it really cause any harm for a professional football team to call themselves the Redskins? Are Indians just being too touchy when they complain about landmarks known as Squaw Valley or Mountain or Rivier?

The people who ask these questions are seldom those who have ever experienced personal exclusion because of their racial origin, their skin colour or their beliefs. Their perspectives might change if they saw teams take to sports fiends wearing sweaters identifying their as the Buffalo Blackskins, or the Wyoming Wops. What would British Columbia's Asian community think if tourist brochures referred to the provincial capital by its whispered sland-name of "Hongcouver"?

Name-calling can have far more lasting ramifications than sticks and stones. Many inner-city gang members got their start as youngsters who grew embittered by the racial slurs they heard on street corners and in school yards.

The unchecked epithet becomes a building block to bigotry. Journalists graduate from making cute comments about embattled politicians "circling the wagons" against their foes to employing more deep-rooted anti-Aboriginal stereotypes.

A Globe and Mail reporter describes the chief of a band accused of financial mismanagement as literally dripping with diamond jewelry. She bought her rings for \$40 from a pow-wow vendor. A Southam columnist talks about government money not reaching the "destitute Indians" because it is "pocketed by Native intermediaries in Armani suits." There are still too many mainstream journalists whose idea of researching Aboriginal issues must be renting a video of *Dances with Wolves*.

Like all other human beings, Indians come in all shapes and sizes, temperaments and talents. We are neither the savage nor noble savage stereotypes portrayed in the media.

We are as diverse as 64 different crayons in a box, and impossible to categorize as one simple shade of colour.

Maurice Switzer is a member of the Mississaugas of Rice Lake First Nation at Alderville, Ont., and director of communications for the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa.



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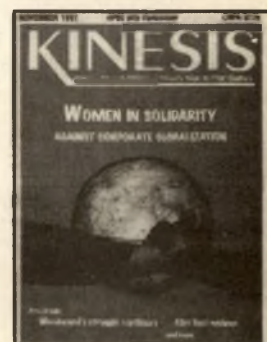
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# The Sweet Smells of Xmas Cookies

by William Nicholls

One of my fondest memories of Christmas was always the smell of holiday cooking and especially the cookies. These days I don't have the same hungry sweet tooth that I did in my younger days, but even today, like many of the cousins, I know which aunts and relatives to visit to sample some home-made goodies.

In my youth, though, some of the fun was in helping to make those same goodies. That first cookie always seemed to taste better after a little work and the anticipation while they baked or froze just added flavour to the finished product.

So I decided to share some easy recipes with you. I chose the recipes where the ingredients are readily available. Enjoy and happy smelly holidays from the kitchen.

## Cathedral Windows

1/4 pound margarine      12 ounces chocolate chips  
1 cup chopped walnuts      7 ounces grated coconut  
12 ounces coloured mini marshmallows

Heat margarine and chocolate chips in the top pan of a double boiler over low heat, stirring occasionally, until melted and smooth. Cool slightly. Put marshmallows and nuts in a large bowl; stir in chocolate. Tear five 9-inch sheets of waxed paper and sprinkle each generously with coconut. Divide dough into fifths and place each fifth on a sheet of waxed paper. Roll tightly into 2-inch-diameter logs and refrigerate overnight. Before serving, unwrap from waxed paper and cut into 1/2" slices.

## Chewy Noels

2 tablespoons butter or margarine      1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 cup chopped nuts      1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1/8 teaspoon baking soda      1/8 teaspoon salt  
2 beaten eggs      1 teaspoon vanilla  
powdered sugar

In 9x9x2-inch baking pan melt butter or margarine. Stir together brown sugar, nuts, flour and salt; stir in eggs and vanilla. Carefully pour over butter in pan; do not stir. Bake at 350 F for 20 to 25 minutes. Sift powdered sugar over top. Placed waxed paper under wire rack, immediately invert pan onto rack. Cool. Dust again with powdered sugar. Cut into bars. Write "Noel" on each bar with green decorator icing. Makes 24.

## Chocolate Macaroons

For macaroons:

1 cup almonds      3 1/2 ounces bittersweet chocolate  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract      2 egg whites  
3/4 cup sugar      1 tablespoon unsalted butter

For filling:

1 3/4 ounces bittersweet chocolate  
2 tablespoons heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 275°F (135°C). Toast the almonds on a

baking sheet until browned, about 5 minutes. Remove, but leave the oven on. When cool, grind the almonds to a fine powder in a food processor. In a small saucepan over very low heat, melt the 3 1/2 ounces (110 g) chocolate with the vanilla. In the bowl of an electric mixer on slow speed, mix the egg white, almonds, and sugar until well blended. With the machine still running, add the melted chocolate mixture, and continue beating until thoroughly blended. Butter a baking sheet (or line with cooking parchment paper, then butter the paper). Spoon the batter onto the baking sheet, allowing 1 heaping tablespoon of batter for each macaroon. Bake just until the macaroons are set, 15 to 18 minutes. They should be slightly firm but not dry. Transfer the macaroons to a rack to cool. Meanwhile, prepare the filling. In a small saucepan over very low heat, melt the 1 3/4 ounces (50 g) of chocolate. Add the heavy cream and stir until well blended. Set aside to cool. When the macaroons and the filling have cooled, spread a heaping tablespoon of the filling on half the macaroons, and cover each with a second macaroon making a sort of sandwich. The macaroons may be served immediately, though they are best if they sit for a few hours. Yield: 10 to 12 filled macaroons.

## Forgotten Cookies

2 egg whites      1/4 tsp salt  
3/4 cup sugar      1/2 cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375 F. Beat egg whites and salt until stiff, slowly add sugar, fold in chips. Drop by teaspoons on greased cookie sheet. Turn oven off and let sit for at least 4 hours undisturbed. You may add food coloring for festive appearance.

## Nut Ball Cookies

3/4 cup ground pecans      1 cup butter - softened  
1/2 cup powdered sugar      1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 1/4 cups cake flour      1/4 teaspoon salt  
powdered sugar

Stir together pecans, butter, sugar and vanilla, mix well. Sift flour and salt, stir into nut mixture. Chill. Roll into 1-inch balls, then roll each ball 3 times in powdered sugar. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F until set but not brown.

## Molasses Crinkles

3/4 cup shortening - softened      1 cup brown sugar  
1 egg - beaten      1/4 cup molasses  
2 1/4 cups flour      1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons baking soda      1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ginger      1/2 teaspoon ground cloves  
1/4 cup granulated sugar

Mix well all ingredients except the granulated sugar and chill overnight. Preheat oven to 350 F. Shape dough in balls the size of walnuts and dip one side in the granulated sugar. Place sugared side up on ungreased cookie sheet 2-3 inches apart. Bake 15 minutes.





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## Xmas Cookies... Con't from page 33

### Peanut Butter Cookies

1/2 teaspoon baking soda      1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 egg      1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup unsalted butter      1/2 cup creamy peanut butter  
1/2 cup brown sugar

Sift together flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Cream butter with sugar, brown sugar and peanut butter, creaming after each addition until light and fluffy. Add egg and mix thoroughly. Add flour mixture gradually. Beat until smooth. Drop mixture, 1 tsp. at a time and about 2" apart on to an undressed baking sheet. Flatten with a fork 2 times to form a crisscross pattern on the cookie surface. Bake in a 350 F oven for 8-10 min. Remove from oven and cool.

### Santa's Whiskers

1 cup butter flavored Crisco - softened  
1 cup sugar      2 tablespoons milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla      2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup red candied cherries - finely chopped  
1/2 cup pecans - finely chopped      3/4 cup flaked coconut

In mixing bowl cream together Crisco and sugar; blend in milk and vanilla. Stir in flour, cherries and pecans. Form dough into two 8-inch rolls. Roll in flaked coconut to coat outside. Wrap in waxed paper or clear plastic wrap; chill thoroughly. Cut into 1/4-inch slices. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375F until edges are golden, about 12 minutes.

### Peanut Brittle Cookies

1 cup brown sugar      1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup shortening      1/2 cup chunky-style peanut butter  
2 eggs      2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon salt      1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 cup crushed peanut brittle

Cream together brown sugar, granulated sugar and shortening. Add 1/2 cup chunky-style peanut butter. Mix in 2 eggs, one at a time. Mix and sift 2 cups of flour and 1 teaspoon salt. Add 1 tablespoon baking powder. Add all of the dry ingredients to the cream mixture. Add 1 cup crushed peanut brittle. Roll into small balls and place on greased cookie sheet. Flatten balls with fork. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

### The Ultimate Sugar Cookie

3/4 cup Crisco Shortening - (175 mL)      2 eggs  
1 cup granulated sugar - (250 mL)      1 tsp vanilla - (5 mL)  
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour - (550 mL)      1/4 tsp salt - (1 mL)  
1 1/2 tsp baking powder - (7 mL)      Coloured decorations or icing

1. Cream Golden Crisco Shortening, sugar, eggs and vanilla in large mixer bowl at medium speed of electric mixer until light and creamy.
2. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add to creamed mixture, mixing on low speed until well blended.
3. Cover dough and chill 1 hour, if desired, for easy rolling.
4. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C).
5. Roll half of dough at a time.
6. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 1/4-inch (6 mm) thickness. Using a cookie cutter, cut in desired shapes. Place on

ungreased baking sheets. Roll leftover pieces.

7. Sprinkle with coloured decorations or leave plain to decorate when cool.

8. Bake at 375°F (190°C) for 8 to 10 minutes, or until edges are light brown. (Time will vary with cookie size.) Cool slightly, then remove to cooling rack. Makes: about 3 dozen cookies.

#### Variations:

Lemon or Orange Cookie Variation: Add 1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon or orange peel and 1 tsp (5 mL) lemon or orange extract to Step #1.

Creamy Vanilla Frosting: Combine 1/2 cup (125 mL) Golden Crisco Shortening, 4 cups (1 L) icing sugar, 1/3 cup (75 mL) milk and 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla in a medium bowl at low speed of electric mixer until well blended. Scrape bowl. Beat at high speed for 2 minutes, or until smooth and creamy. Frost cooled cookies.

Note: Frosting works well in decorating tube.

1 or 2 drops food colour can be used to tint each 1 cup (250 mL) of frosting, if desired.

Lemon or Orange Frosting Variation: Eliminate milk. Add 1/3 cup (75 mL) lemon or orange juice. Add 1 tsp (5mL) lemon or orange rind with juice.

I have many more recipes but unfortunately I do not have the space and will be forced to save them for next year. If you have recipes you would like to share with people, please feel free to contact me at *The Nation* at (514) 272-3077 as I plan to write a recipe column occasionally. Remember to brush your teeth after eating these sweets!

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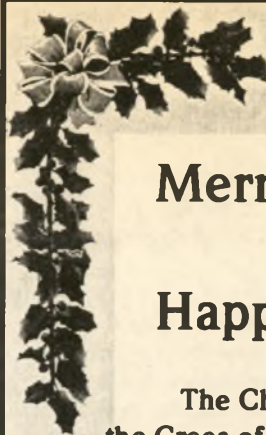


CREE NATION OF  
W E M I N D J I

The Council and staff  
of the Cree Nation of  
Wemindji wish a  
Merry Christmas

to all of the  
Cree Nation.

Stay sober. Have fun.



Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year



From  
The Chief and Council and  
the Crees of the Nemaska First Nation

The Nemaska First Nation wishes to take this  
opportunity to wish each and every one of you the happiest of  
holiday seasons. We hope that your  
holidays will be happy, safe and healthy times  
for children of all ages.

This is a time of year for families to reaffirm their commitment  
to each other and for communities to open their hearts to  
those who are troubled or hurting.

Let us take this time to reflect on our successes and to plan for  
our futures both as communities of families and as  
a Nation of communities.

Chief George Wapachee and the Council and members of  
the Cree First Nation of Nemaska



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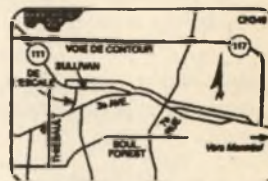


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# IN HONOUR OF UCHIMAAU PAAUSHTIKUU

By Irene Bearskin-House

I was about five years old when I actually saw these great magnificent rapids named "Uchimaau Paaushtikuu," but for many years I never knew its location. Throughout my life I never saw these rapids again with my own eyes, but only in memory would I often see them again. In my memory like a faded picture, I saw a little girl camped beside these rapids in a cozy michuap smelling fresh of evergreen boughs.

The size of these rapids is unforgettable. I can see the waves representing themselves nobly like huge white rollers and the sound was like rolling thunder. The rapids portrayed its genuine spirit of strength and majestic beauty. When I relive this memory that young innocent brown-skinned little

girl was safe and secure in the warm embrace of the sheltering michuap. From her heart, this little girl closely listened to the roaring sound and the true spirit of these great rapids. The message understood and felt by this little girl was absolute fear and sadness, but again, as I listened to the rapids from my warm sheltering michuap with my family, I felt protected and secure.

Throughout the years, as I would often recall this faded memory of these rapids, I would always feel absolute fear and sadness. Then one day I decided to ask an Elder, an uncle, "Where are these rapids named Uchinmaau Paaushtikuu?" With profound empathy, the Elder tells me, "Uchimaau Paaushtikuu does not exist any more; that is where they built the first dam

on this great river." At that moment, I froze... My whole body froze... Then a tight feeling slowly gathered in my chest and throat... I had no words, but slowly and softly my tears begin to flow. With humility, the Elder continues his story about "Uchimaau Paaushtikuu as I continued shortly to shed my tears. After a while in time, I realized what that fear and sadness meant... that one day "Uchimaau Paaushtikuu" would be no more.

The traditional people who knew these rapids will carry this fear and sadness, for it has been said that "each time the lands, the waters, are wounded or destroyed, then the spirit of the traditional people, the caretakers, of these lands and waters are also wounded in spirit."

**Dedicated to all the grassroots people of Chisasibi, the original caretakers of the Great River, and especially to our traditional Elders who guide us to understand our sacred connection to the lands and waters and all that there is.**

## WHAT ARE THE STARS?

To you out there, did you ever as a young child wonder, when you look up at the sky at night and you saw all these stars up there, did you ever wonder what these lights were? For myself I can say I used to look up at the stars and wondered about these lights up there.

During our childhood, Dad used to tell us stories about heaven, a beautiful place where it's always day even though there is no sun. I used to ask him where heaven was and he would answer up there over the sky. Then I would ask him about these lights up there and he would answer, "These are stars." But what are stars, I wondered. I still wasn't satisfied with his explanation. Then one evening as I looked up at the stars, I remembered what Dad had said about heaven, a beautiful place somewhere up there. With this in mind I thought, if heaven was up there, maybe these were holes in the sky and it must be the lights of heaven that were shining through the holes, so every time we look up at the stars we have a glimpse of heaven. This is what I believed all through my childhood. It was a happy thought, don't you think? Maybe you or your children had other explanations regarding these lights up there...

I remember one autumn evening, we were in the bush. My nephew and I went to get some firewood after dark. You know

it gets dark early in the fall. My nephew seemed anxious for us to finish our chore. He was really in a hurry. I knew he wanted to go back to playing cards with his brother. It was a clear, chilly evening. I looked up at the stars as usual and I said, "Look at all these stars." My nephew looked up and asked, "Where? What is a star?" I replied, "These lights up there." Still looking up, he

EVERY TIME WE  
LOOK UP AT THE  
STARS WE HAVE A  
GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

wanted to know, "Who put them up there?"... I laughed because I knew he wasn't really interested in the stars; he was anxious to know who put them up there... So of course I told him that these lights up there were holes in the sky and it was the lights of heaven shining through

these holes. He wanted to know what heaven is, so I told him what my Dad told me about heaven. He seemed satisfied with my description of heaven. I'm sure every time he looks up at the stars, he thinks he has a glimpse of heaven.

So to you out there, share with us some of the damnest things your kids or your students say sometimes. We'd like to read about them some time in the future.

So 'til next time, so long...

(Chisasibi)

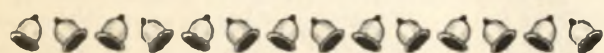


## The Cree-Naskapi Commission



The Cree-Naskapi  
Commission wishes

everyone a very



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year.



*The Council of Commissioners,  
Staff and students of the  
Cree School Board  
would like to extend  
their sincerest greetings for  
a Joyous Christmas  
to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Estchee.  
Merry Christmas!*



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of those we serve is the  
foundation of our success,  
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to say "Thank You" as we wish you  
a very Merry Christmas and  
prosperous New Year.*

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# Why I don't go to school in Mistissini

This story is about why I don't go to school in my hometown of Mistissini. I am now 14 years old, and in Secondary 3. I go to school in Ouje-Bougoumou. I used to go to school in Mistissini, but it was too rough for me. There, I cried almost every day after school because I was always teased or beaten up by other students. Most of the students would call me names.

I still remember one of the students who would spit on me when I wore new clothes. So I always wore old clothes to school. I hated new clothes. I never went out because I was scared that I would be beaten up. When I did go out, I would only go to visit my grandmother or aunts and uncles down the road.

One day, at last, my parents and I got tired of it. They decided to send me to school somewhere else. I was then sent to school in North Bay, Ontario. I was only 10 years old. I really liked going to school there. The problem was that I missed my family, and I didn't really like where I was staying because I was the only girl. There were four boys in the house, and they would tease me too. I went to school there for about half a year.

After North Bay, I went back to school in Mistissini again because my parents couldn't afford to send me to North Bay any more. At first, going back to school in Mistissini was okay, because my new classmates were different. Then came summer vacation.

On the first day of school of the new year, however, I was again with the same classmates. They started to abuse me all over again. I cried because I was hurt. The teacher told me to go home because of the problems with the students who were teasing me. I went home. After that I didn't want to go back to constant abuse and humiliation again. My parents, however, didn't like that I no longer wanted to go to school. We had a problem. I was 11 years old, and had decided to quit school. We went to see social services. They helped me understand that I shouldn't quit school. We decided to try the school in Ouje-Bougoumou. My mom called in order to find a boarding home. A home was recommended for me. My mom called them. They gave us an answer within half an hour.

I started school in Ouje-Bougoumou in October of 1995. I was 11 years old, in Grade Six. I was very shy, and nervous that I would get teased or beaten up. It didn't happen like I thought. I was happy to be in school where the students did not tease or abuse me physically.

Now, I stay in a nice home with my boarding home parents, Judy and Raymond Capissit. They take care of me, and help me by having rules and a curfew in the house. At first I didn't understand why they had rules. It is to keep me out of trouble. They support me in my work and in my social life, by teaching me values like respect, love and honour. I love going to school here, even though we have our ups and downs, but we always work things out. Ouje-Bougoumou youth are pretty nice people to be with.

I plan to graduate from school here and then go to college. I must try to forgive the youth in Mistissini for treating me as they did. What I still want to know is why they treated me like this? Why me?

**Angelina Tina Gunner**  
Sec. 3, English Sector  
Wapahitliewan School

## Epilogue

*In closing, I would like to thank you for reading my story. I would also like to personally thank my parents in Mistissini, Malcolm and Caroline Trapper, for their love and support since the day I left Mistissini. I love you, mom and dad. I also wish to thank my boarding home parents for encouraging me to write my story. Also, thanks to my teacher, Max Campbell, for proof-reading my story.*

## Message from boarding house parents:

*Angelina is now 14 years old and growing up to be a fine young lady. She is no longer shy and has shown a big improvement in her social well-being compared to when she first came to us, "a wounded little girl."*

## Note from one of my teachers in Ouje-Bougoumou:

*When Angelina first came to my class she was indeed a wounded soul. It was months before she trusted others enough to relax. At first she was always withdrawn and afraid of being attacked. Over time I have watched Angelina soften. I can remember when I first heard her voice, and later the sound of her laughter. The other students called her "Muchacha" with affection and fondness - the nickname of an adopted sister, the name of one who has become part of our family. Muchacha means "girl" in Spanish, and she became just this - one lovely girl among all the other lovely girls of our community.*

*There is such a soft strength in Angelina now. I cannot tell her why these children did this to her in Mistissini. What I can say is that they have lost a chance to know this wonderful "healed girl" that we have come to know and love. Their loss has become our gain.*



# EYYOU GOVERNMENT

To: Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
Subject: Cree Eeyou Government Task Force

Dear Matthew,

I have a strong feeling that our leaders are beginning to get manipulated by continuing to define our rights in the non-Native justice system, that is totally against all principles of our culture as caretakers of Eeyou Istchee. We are being held hostage by governments, be it federal or provincial, by being denied funding to our communities if we step out or stray away from the road which these non-Native governments propose we follow.

The people gave a mandate in 1996 at Chisasibi to the Grand Council of the Crees in a special gathering to begin a process to eventually evolve into a strong governing body made up of Cree people operating a Cree Eeyou Government. The process was supported again by resolution 1997-25, at the 1997 Annual General Assembly in Ouje-Bougoumou, to look into the planned developments which the Quebec government had planned for the future of Eeyou Istchee.

The negativity of the proposed developments, which

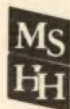
promise further destruction of the land and the environment of which we are the true caretakers, cannot continue. The leaders of the Grand Council were requested again and again, and given a directive by an all-chiefs meeting in Montreal on March 19, 1998, to create a task force to establish a solution to the vision for the people to create an Eeyou Governing Body, which could negotiate at a national level, Nation to Nation, to protect the only thing that the entirety of our souls comes from, which is the land. It must be protected at all cost, not only for our lives, but for the lives of our great great grand-children yet to come.

The process, supported by the people, seems to have come to a halt and I began to wonder why. Is it that we are afraid that monies from the governments will not pour into our communities if we go forward with our vision for the future of this nation?

Time waits for no person and I feel by waiting we lose every day against the forces that are continuing daily to divide and conquer our people of Eeyou Istchee. Even today it becomes more and more important to place this task force into action and start working together to build a strong future for Eeyou Istchee.

Let us work with the people. We have our mandate to fulfil.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Eric R. House, Chisasibi



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1999.

BEST WISHES TO OUR  
FRIENDS AND CLIENTS  
IN JAMES BAY.  
WE HOPE THAT YOU  
HAVE A SAFE AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY AND  
THAT 1999 IS A  
YEAR OF PEACE  
AND PROSPERITY

LES MINES  
**INMET**



The management of the  
Troilus Project would like to  
thank their employees for  
their efforts in the success of  
the Troilus Project and wishes  
all of its employees, and the  
Cree Nation as well,  
a wonderful holiday season  
and prosperous new year.



# HELPING EACH OTHER IS OUR WAY

BY MARILYN BEARSKIN-HERODIER

I wanted to write an article about an issue that I constantly hear about. A question that is constantly being brought up is: Do First Nations benefit from white-dominated social systems? European practices and institutions are of questionable use and effectiveness for Aboriginal people. How can we as Aboriginal people take back the responsibility for solving social problems and deal with the well-being of our communities? When will that day come when we as First Nations reinforce our cultural values as a means of strengthening our communities?

We need to strengthen our pride as First Nations people. I personally feel Social Services would be stronger and would make a difference if the services reflected cultural values. I don't mean to say that social-services workers are incompetent. They are our people. But I feel we have too many non-Native intervention programs and the Native intervention programs we do have - are they being implemented in the work area? That is questionable.

I feel our social services are too political, and there are policies and procedures that continually have to be followed. But where does this leave the grassroots people? Often in the same situation. Our people often depend on social services to guide them through their healing. But in many cases, time is of the essence. Their healing is put on hold and people start to give up. Whereas in our traditional values, time is put aside and the focus is on the individual. There were no barriers, no walls for people who needed help. There were no policies or procedures, no white man telling them you can't do this because in our law it is not allowed. We weren't judged, we weren't labeled as having all these disorders. The grief and pain we were already carrying was enough for someone to handle. Not like today, when more is added to our pain by being labeled.

I ask this question one more time: Can we honestly say that our people benefit from the white-dominated social system? There needs to be change. The realization and existence of our values, traditions and beliefs must be recognized and must be a part of our healing system. We've been invaded for too long. For too long, we've been told we were incompetent Indians and that we should be ashamed of who we are. In fact, being told we couldn't do anything right was instilled in us. We have to change that and rid ourselves of that belief of being incompetent.

We are not incompetent. We are caregivers and caretakers, and we have to start helping one another. We need to stand as a nation. There is a need for healing and it can't be done unless it is done our way.

"Let's quit surviving and start living again," as it says in the book *Respecting our Human Dignity: Justice in Aboriginal Com-*



munities, *Beyond Violence*, by the Quebec Native Women's Association.

For me, I have chosen the Native way. I feel more comfortable speaking to my own people because I feel they are more at a position to understand what it is our people are suffering from. I speak to Elders when I need help. They don't judge me.

Whereas the white system gives me hypothetical answers. I am labeled as an alcoholic, a drug addict or having some kind of disorder. They give you pills to keep your depression or anxiety attacks under control, and our people, our Elders, give us the compassion they have to offer and help us deal with whatever we have to deal with.

They listen and speak from the heart, and the white system speaks from the mind. For the white system it is their job to help us and for our people it is our way.

We need to start dealing with our past. We need to start dealing with the core of our burdens and pain. We need to start re-educating ourselves about who we are and where we came from. Nobody can begin to understand what our people suffer from, but our own people.

Any comments or ideas are welcomed. Please write in. Anonymous letters are welcomed (as long as you identify yourself to *The Nation* in the letter). A change will not happen unless we start to voice ourselves.





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continued from page 6

1998. Thanks to the people at the Cree Health Board who I met. You know who you are. Also to the Cree Grand Chief Bertie Wapachee of the Youth of James Bay. Thanks!!! Dear friends, thank you all to those I've met.

In the spirit of Dave Janvier

## "I don't need this crap"

Letter to *The Nation*:

I have just finished reading the latest issue of *The Nation* hoping to read about the Cree participation at the SKAL INTERNATIONAL which took place in Montreal last week.

I had expected to read something appropriate with some dose of journalistic integrity, along with a sprinkling of basic truth of the subject of this conference of tourism and travel.

I might as well have bought a copy of the latest edition of *The National Enquirer*. I found it offensive, denigrating and lacked class, especially the Rez Notes section.

On page 11 one of the photos says, "Note all the bald heads in the audience," and on the very same page you refer to the president of SKAL as "the man with the funny sounding Scandinavian name." The very same people who gave the Cree Nation an opportunity to highlight their culture and the chance to tell the world about themselves, their tourism products were insulted by your magazine. Imagine the reaction of these people were they to read this issue of *The Nation*. You could inflict irreparable damage to the cause of our people, especially those who are in the tourism industry, by such irresponsible behavior.

As to the question of Ndiamon's Rez Notes, he makes it sound like he rescued the whole show from failure. Not only is it narcissistic but full of inaccuracies.

The question of the teepee had been resolved two weeks prior to the event. The same goes for the dancers. It was all a question of money. But in the end, we had to pay for the rental of the teepee and the dancers from Kahnawake were at the opening ceremonies. As for the drummers from Waswanipi who backed out at the last minute, there was already a group that would have replaced them. I had contingency plans every step of the way, but

unfortunately I was only working in an advisory capacity and not in a formal decision-making position.

I was offended and hurt by the fact that this piece of trash made me look incompetent. As you stated in the Rez Notes, "I don't need this crap."

Incidentally, I did get crap from my eye doctor. I did not have a black eye; I have a very serious eye infection with a torn retina. I had postponed in making an appointment to make this project work. You have mocked my efforts and the time I put into this project. With friends like *The Nation*, who needs enemies?

The only truth that I have been able to verify about the Rez Notes is the fact that George Diamond is still working.

I had been one of your strongest supporters since you began and I never for a moment believed that I would be the target of such trash, and last but not least, make a small attempt to verify your information before publication.

I will not ask for a public apology; the damage has been done.

Claude Otter

Coordinator-Research and Development  
Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc.  
Waswanipi

## Some points about SKAL

Letter to *The Nation*:

I read with interest your "Rez" notes concerning the SKAL conference and organization, and would like to make some points.

THE FACTS:

1) A notice of the conference was sent to all the Cree communities in August (1998).

2) A tourism seminar was held in Montreal (again in August) at which Economic Development Officers were present, including tourism coordinators, myself included. (I am the interim tourism coordinator for Waskaganish.)

3) A discussion was held on the SKAL conference, and ideas and suggestions were requested by George Diamond from those present on how to organize this conference. (One wall was covered with flip chart paper!) So we helped George by offering our ideas and suggestions, and I noticed some of these were used during the conference.

4) An organizing committee was formed

which did not only consist of George and Claude. The names I recall were Michel Prince from Mistissini, John Brown from Eastmain (don't recall the other person), Claude Otter, George Diamond and the undersigned.

5) Although there were people who made themselves available (myself included) to provide assistance (George and Claude being the main coordinators), it seems that they were not consulted or kept informed of what was happening. (I made a point to keep myself informed; otherwise I would have been just as "in the dark.")

6) One of the people I saw work real hard was Michel Prince who set up the booth at the Queen E., which was shared by any of the Cree communities who wished to promote their tourism products. (I understand Michel also helped with the setup at the Palais de Congres.) (\*By the way no interviews were given to the people at the booth by CBC Eeyou Eeyimoon or *The Nation* - that's where a lot of the action was... The only "distinguished" Cree visitors we had were a Cree Ambassador, Ted Moses, and Chief Kenneth Gilpin.)

So you see, Neil, there were people who were there ready to lend a helping hand, but there did not seem to be any confidence shown in the abilities.

I realize that George is your friend, but give credit where credit is due!

Doris Small

(Interlm) Tourism Coordinator  
Waskaganish

## Jesus was disliked, too

Letter to *The Nation*:

RE: On the question of being the most disliked politician.

It is impossible for me not to make comments about your so-called survey entitled, "The Best of James Bay," published in the November 6, 1998, issue. I suspect, for reasons I will mention later, that you kind of enjoyed the "fact" that John Kitchen was appointed (by how many readers and from where?) the "most disliked politician" of James Bay, in the interesting company of Chief Walter Hughboy of Wemindji. You have been snapping at his ass for so long that your teeth are now stuck on one of his buns (a most uninteresting position, believe me!)

The problem about this is that history's



most disliked politicians are usually found among those who have greatly contributed to the strength of their nation compared to those whom the people "most loved."

Let us take a few examples of disliked politicians. Although historians agree Winston Churchill is the greatest Englishman, and arguably the greatest leader of the 20th century, he was so disliked at the end of World War II that his own people turfed him out to replaced him with well-known, but now well-unknown, Clement Atlee.

And this despite the fact that his bull-dog attitude saved his nation from the Nazis (read about his blood, sweat and tears speech). Especially when England was alone fighting the Germans. And, yet, disliked he was.

The same thing happened to that other well-known and much "disliked" politician, Charles de Gaulle. Despite his stature gained during WWII as the symbol of French resistance against Germany, de Gaulle could not muster enough support among his own people after the war and was forced to resign in 1946 as the head of the Provisional Government, and replaced by an uninspiring and undoubtedly well-liked politico. He was so disliked, in fact, that when he eventually managed to have himself elected president of France in 1958, he was the subject of many attempts on his life (one of these formed the basis of the film *The Day of the Jackal*). In 1968, all the students of France so disliked him that they rampaged through the streets of Paris during the so-called revolution of May 1968, and almost toppled the government.

Louis XIV, Cromwell, William Pitt (the Younger), Abraham Lincoln (who thought he would lose the elections of 1864 had it not been for Sherman's capture of Atlanta), and hey, Jesus Christ, who was chosen to die in the place of well-liked Barabas, are among those who have been intensely disliked by the people.

Now let us have a look at some of the world's "best loved" politicians. When Joseph Stalin died, the whole of Russia mourned the man to the point of collective hysteria, and yet all agree he was a monster who was responsible for the death of more than 30 million of his countrymen. Take for example that psychotic murderer Adolph Hitler. Old newsreels that show him walking through the masses of his people demon-

strate the extent of the genuine affection the Germans had for that well-loved man.

Politicians today could only dream of the popularity and influence this man had on his people. From what I see on the news, Saddam Hussein seems a likeable fellow and so is William "Bill" Clinton.

In other words, although totally useless as a concept, being designated as the "most disliked" politician has a kind of neat, cool ring to it. John Kitchen is certainly in good company. Politicians who actually accomplish things usually create a certain amount of resentment from those who are lazy, dislike change, who prefer gossip to truth.

When one studies past issues of *The Nation*, it seems clear that you dislike John Kitchen so much that you have lost your objectivity in his case, and you are now focusing on his personal (and only too human) weaknesses, while willfully ignoring his strengths and accomplishments. You also have decided to hear only those, from this community, who have been using you as an expression of their ambitions, and of their frustrations at not being heard in the community.

If John Kitchen is so disliked, as you imply, let the community decide on that issue and if there is news about him that needs to be printed, well do it in as much as it serves the public interest. I had personally asked Will Nicholls to come to the community of Waswanipi to do a survey; he agreed, but never showed up. That, however, disappointed me, because I wanted for him to see what it's really like in Waswanipi.

And so, according to your readers, Waswanipi has the "worst band council"? Of course, this is a consequence of having it led by the most disliked politician. The guys who send in their ballots could not have helped but revile their own council, which is ironic in itself considering the composition of that council.

Now in the same issue of your magazine, the "3rd worst" band council, which is also the "best" band council (yes, yes, see page 11), has demonstrated it can't handle or manage its public accounts. The irony (and the ironies abound in your survey) is that Waswanipi actually manages its public finances quite well. Therefore, how can Waswanipi's council be the "worst" council in an objective way?

I think your survey, although well-intentioned, is so subjective in nature, its results are probably meaningless and those who have been the subject of the "best" designations should not put too much significance in that.

We have, however, in Waswanipi, and that must be true on all accounts, the best tallyman...

It is one thing, in a light-hearted way, to seek out where we can get the best hotdogs in town. It is as funny as it is silly. I think that those who participated in this exercise had fun sending in their suggestions. Try to keep it at that level.

Where I do object, however, is that cheap shot written under Chief Kitchen's picture on page 15: "Most disliked politician John Kitchen at news conference announcing another hated policy." First of all, this is not true: The picture was taken during a conference announcing the lawsuit against forestry companies, an action Chief Kitchen totally supported, especially in his capacity as a regional coordinator for forestry. And what about his "hated" policy? How could you say something like this? You did not only insult the chief, but the intelligence of the community.

Is establishing the first First Nation autonomous justice system a "hated policy"? Is finding work for his people a "hated policy"? Is establishing a daycare centre a "hated policy"? Is trying to foster a good relationship with surrounding non-Native communities a "hated policy"? I think you guys are full of it (B.S., I mean). You wouldn't know a "good" policy if it sat on your face.

Waswanipi has come a long way in the past 20 years. This community is the only one that did not have massive financial assistance to relocate itself from the Old Post to the new site. And despite all obstacles, it has developed itself into a vibrant and strong community. It was well-represented by sensitive and caring chiefs: Peter Gull, Abel Kitchen, Allan Happyjack and John Kitchen, all following in the spirit of that great chief, Diom Blacksmith.

Yes, John Kitchen, being human, has made a lot of mistakes: He readily admits to them to his community. It is not how many times you fall that is important; it is how you get up that counts. John Kitchen is a chief who is deserving of the respect he

continued on page 46



gets from the community.

If you have the guts, get yourself elected chief and we will all see how well you manage this position. It is one thing to make cruel fun of someone. It is another to be constructive and useful in your criticisms.

I have a suggestion to make: If you really wanted to promote the "best" of James Bay, why don't you appoint a panel of respected persons to receive submissions from the people, justifying their own choice (with a list of reasons and accomplishments) for the "best" in each of the following categories: visual arts, music, poetry, prose, nation-building, community building, outstanding community service.

Each person chosen by this panel could receive a "Nation Prize" at a ceremony in one of the communities. In other words, it would be a way for the people to assist in choosing the best of James Bay... in a positive way (fort-tongued snakes need not submit their choices).

**Hattie B. Kitchen  
Waswanipi**

*Ed. Note: Dear Hattie, I was ready to come up to Waswanipi, but you requested more time to prepare. I waited for your call but it never came. I am ready to come to your community anytime an invitation is extended. -Will*

## Survey winner writes

### Letter to *The Nation*:

The winners speak...

First, I want to thank whoever put forth my name in the "Best Community Contribution (Man)" category (Vol. 5, No. 25, Nov. 6, 1998). Secondly, I am very surprised by the nomination. I like to help people. My own personal philosophy is: "Think not what your community can do for you but what can you do for your community." I always believed that "actions speak louder than words." Also, the Bible reads: "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you."

Thank you whoever you are.

**Thomas Coon  
Mistissini**

## Article misleading

### Letter to *The Nation*:

RE: Article "O.J. votes to rehold election

for chief," Vol. 6, No. 1

Congratulations to Alex Roslin on his recent achievement as one of the best storytellers in James Bay. Sadly, after reading his article, I cannot say much for his "journalistic" skills. Research could have produced any of the points in this letter. After all, the 101-52 margin was one of the last items established regarding this issue. It seems that for your paper, a half-baked story written before press time takes precedence over a thoroughly researched one. Isn't this the approach of tabloid newspapers?

Some may see my letter as slanderous to individuals, retaliation, mud-slinging, etc. I choose to call it what it is - exposing the truth behind this half-baked story. The following is my recollection and understanding of this issue. However, I don't expect you to take my word for it, but rather encourage you to do some research before you write any further on this issue.

The following is based upon documents such as the Cree-Naskapi Commission report and other documents that circulated at the community assembly. Also, I attended the two community assemblies where Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith and the returning officer were given the opportunity to present their cases to the people and where this issue was discussed extensively.

Your article is, to say the least, misleading. Granted, Louise [*Wapachee, the chief of Ouje-Bougoumou -Ed.*] may have been away, but surely there must have been someone else who you could have questioned considering that all these points were brought up at the community assembly. One can assume you did not attempt to contact any of the councilors or the returning officer for clarifications and/or comments since you did not mention this.

First of all, one cannot assess from your article how the treasurer was elected as chief other than the by-law was ambiguous. The elections by-law did state that all members were allowed to run for the office of chief or councilor unless he/she is the treasurer, among other positions.

However, the Cree-Naskapi Commission (CNC) was aware of this when it declared "grounds for re-election not valid." Furthermore, the CNC states that it was its opinion that Chief Wapachee, returning officer St. Pierre and other parties involved acted in

good faith.

How is this? It was argued that the by-law did not reflect the people's understanding so the CNC conducted an investigation pertaining to this matter. By asking the people how they understood this particular clause, the CNC found that the election by-law did not in fact reflect the popular understanding of the people.

The popular understanding of the by-law was established as follows. That any member is allowed to run for chief or councilor. Upon being elected into office, the member must choose which position to take, be it his/her current employment OR his/her newly elected position. The new chief or councilor may not keep his/her current employment, while accepting his/her elected position.

Further to this, others were also implicated in the clause that is being scrutinized. That same clause states that, as an employee of the band, you are required to resign before accepting your nomination. Not only did Joseph not do that, but three out of the four candidates could not have run. I am not saying that two wrongs make a right. Rather I am saying that Joseph's understanding of the by-law can be arguably said to be that of the popular understanding.

Furthermore, anyone had 14 days to make this particular contestation after the nominations were made. This contestation was submitted not only after the election results were in, but two days after the contestation deadline.

I am not sure what the proper procedure is in this predicament, but I do know that upon establishing this, the CNC agreed that the by-law was ambiguous but grounds for re-election were not justified.

Secondly, the mentioned Elder did come forward at the first assembly stating that his vote was tampered with. However, the assistant returning officer came forward at the following meeting denouncing these allegations. She stated that it was likely a case of misunderstanding on the part of the Elder. However, she specifically stated that there was no tampering of his vote.

Interestingly enough, Robert Bosum was one of two Elders who were allegedly done wrong when casting their votes. According to Joseph, both of these Elders' votes were tampered with in the manner described in



## 101-BIRTHDAYS

**Two years ago on December 13, 1996** in Val d'Or Hospital I gave birth to a sweet little baby boy name Donovan Malachi Darzel Blueboy (Hester) and we would like to wish him a happy 2nd birthday. Since the day you were born you have given us so much joy and happiness in our lives and you always seem to brighten up our day in all the little things you do. Words cannot describe the love we feel for you. We will always love you. With love, mommy and daddy (Elaine and George) P.S. Once again, happy birthday, sweetie. (Wask)

**We would like to send our love** and birthday greetings to a very special person in our lives, Francois Gunner in Mistissini on December 28. Today is your day, enjoy every minute of it. You deserve it! You're someone special who deserves the good things that come your way and many more to come. We love you!! From your wife and children, Rebecca, Melanie, Marvin and Delphis and last but not least your grandson Clayton Gunner.

**Happy birthday to my auntie** Patricia Blueboy on December 2, 98. May your day be as special as you are. Love always, your nephew Donovan B. P.S. Happy belated birthday to my grandpa Patrick B. on November 8, 98. Love you both.

**A birthday wish to a friend** of mine Diane Shecapio on November 19. Happy birthday and many more to come. From friend always, Rita Sealhunter.

**A special birthday wish** to my sister Hannah Sealhunter on November 26. Have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. From Rita.

**Happy belated birthday** to my Sam in Eastmain on November 5, 98. Thought I'd drop you some lines to let you know how I feel about you. You are very

special to me because you are the nicest person I ever met. You are so loving, caring and understanding. I really love you for that. I am very grateful that I met you and I'll never regret it. I swear. P.S. I love you so much it hurts so bad. With all my love, Deborah.

**Belated birthday wishes** going out to the two special people, Winnie M. Saganash (November 11) and to Candy Saganash (November 7) Hey! Mom how does it feel spending your birthday in your own reserve (Mist) Well anyways, wishing you both a happy birthday. From Albert, Nathan, Jennifer and kids, Hillary, Abby Gail, Norma Jean, Harold (Herb) xoxoxox.

**Birthday greetings** to our special grandson/nephew and a great hockey player Tyler Andrew George Wapachee who's celebrating his 10th on December 6th. Love always, granny, grampa, Johnny, Patrick, Amy and Darcy too! Also a very special hello to Joelle Small.

**Happy birthday to my friend** Greta Whiskeychan on November 25 in Moose Factory. Although you are many miles away. I often think of you. I know you're doing alright for yourself. Take care. Love in friendship, DE Wapachee.

**Happy birthday to Sophia** in Waswanipi on November 23, 98. From Blanche in Waskaganish. Ha!

**happy birthday to Maxine** Mark Stewart who will be celebrating her birthday in Montreal. From Georgette and Lindy.

**happy 1st birthday** to our adorable little granddaughter Serenitee Neeposh on November 24, 1998. It's been a year since you came into our lives and every day, you have filled them with joy and love by the sweet adorable things you do and say. We love you so...much. Love, grandma, grandpa,

the article. However, when asked to speak, the second Elder flatly denied Joseph's story. She said the names were read out to her and she chose whom to vote for.

Another point about this allegation is that Joseph claims he knew about it the day after the election results were in. However, it took him two months after the elections to make this allegation known. The CNC was the first to be made aware of this issue, to which it responded that it did not find any point in re-investigating the case.

The article further implies that Louise personally hired a family member for the position of director-general. The issue of nepotism was never brought up at the community assemblies. Upon contacting a councilor, as you could have, I was told that the decision to hire the director-general was in fact a council decision.

The article then states that "[Louise] decided not to take Abel Bosum up on his request to stay on as a consultant to the band." This was clarified at the community assembly - that Abel's request would be considered as per Louise's conditions. This is understandable since only Louise knows where she needs consulting.

The article simply leaves the reader with a false impression about the situation in Ojaya and of the new chief. Let it be known that Louise is not the "big man" upstairs who no one can reach. She is not running the show as she sees fit.

On the contrary, people will agree that her office door is always open to anyone. Since she was in office, not only has she regularly met with the councilors but community members are permitted to sit in at these council meetings.

With regards to the results of the referendum, it is my opinion that the 101-52 margin is not an "approval rating" for the chief, as some may assess from the article. This opinion is based on the events that occurred just before ballots were cast for this referendum. I, for one, voted for the status quo because I did not see a justifiable reason to have a re-election.

The truth of the matter is Joseph outright blackmailed the people. He said he would take this issue to court if there were no re-elections. The people were under duress when they voted for a re-election. The in-house advisor mentioned to everyone, including Joseph, that a court case could prove hurtful to Ojaya and that it was in the community's best interest to resolve this issue internally. It was said that our legal position in pending court cases could be jeopardized.

I would just like to commend Louise for letting people vote on how to proceed. She has truly proven to be the people's chief. Since the election was never declared invalid, Louise could have imposed upon us to close the book on this issue right there and then.

On a final note, I encourage anyone to contradict any points I have made in this letter. It should also be noted that I am a very distant relative of the chief.

**Timothy Wapachee, Ojaya-Bougoumou member**

## Correction

A letter in our last issue contained a couple of typing errors. The letter should have read: "More and more of our people are diagnosed with kidney malfunctions. Some of them are even in Montreal." Also, the letter was signed by Daisy L. Metabie, but we accidentally omitted the name of the other author, Alice Matoush (ᐃᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑲᑦ). Sorry for the errors.



# CLASSIFIEDS

Kathleen and Rene.

**I want to wish my "mon amour"** a happy birthday on December 5th. I'm glad we've kept our promise to one another. I thank God for you everyday. from your wife who loves you dearly.

**Happy birthday** to my girlfriend in Val d'Or on December 11. I miss you. Hope you enjoy the Celine Dion concert! ILU, Kevin. XXXXXXXX

**A happy belated birthday** to my special nephew who will be turning one year old on November 24, 98. I want you to know how grateful I am to have you as a nephew. Anyways, hope you enjoy your first birthday and I wish you all the best in life and many more years to come. This birthday wish is going out to a lovable nephew Elston Lee. Birthday wishes especially for you my nephew. Love always, your auntie who love you very much (Wask)

**I would like to wish** a happy belated birthdays to the following people in Waskaganish. Kathleen Jolly on October 25, Adriana Moses on October 30, Sabrina Jolly on November 5, Elaine Moses on November 24, Elston Lee on November 22. Last but not least Laurina Jolly on December 3. Hope you all enjoyed your birthdays. From Waskaganish.

**Happy birthday** to my sister Tina Pet on Jan. 10 and Bedabin Coon on Feb. 18. So there's your birthday presents you guys! kidding) From Lisa and Josiah. Gaak! (josh)

**On December 5th our uncle** Lindy Mark Stewart from Eastmain will be celebrating his b-day. We would like to wish him a happy birthday and sending him love and kisses. from the two and only. e boboys. xoxoxoxo

**Happy birthday to my bro** Lindy on December 5th. Wish-

ing him joy and happiness. from bro Redfern, sis in law Liane.

**"You all happy"** to our sister that we miss so much. We would like to wish Maxine (touné) happy 15th birthday on December 11 who is attending school in Val d'Or and can't wait to see her during the X-mas holidays. We love you. from the Boboys, Corey - Cayce. xoxoxoxo

**December 11.** Happy 15th birthday to our daughter Maxine Mark Stewart (Toune) who will be at the Celine Dion concert on that day with us and Kevin. Hoping you'll enjoy your day. Love always, Mom and dad. xoxoxoxo

**Birthday greeting** goes out to a special girl who is very cute and pretty, to my cuz, Deanna Joella Jakie Rose Salt. Celebrating her 5th birthday on December 10, 98. May your special day be filled with lots of fun. With lots of love, from our cousin Amanda and also from Lorena in Waskaganish.

**Happy second birthday** to my precious Jeejeesh Neesha Chanan Shecapio on October 17. I know you still can't read but I'll keep this and I'll show it to you when you can read. I want you and others to know how much you mean to me. Four days after your first birthday, your father and sister left this world. Although you still didn't understand I was overwhelmed with grief. I have never felt such pain in my heart for the loss of your father and sister. But you were always

there for me. you are my comfort. you are my strength. Everytime I would feel sad of lonely you always put a smile on my face by you doing something or saying something funny. Every time I cry you would be there to comfort me, hug me, kiss me, and wipe my tears with your little hands. I truly thank God for you. And I thank you for always being there for me. I love you very much my precious Jeejeesh. Again happy second birthday. With lots of love and hugs, mommy.

**Happy birthday to Stephane** Gilpin Jr., in Eastmain. n December 4 you will be 5 years old. We can't believe how fast you're growing up. Although you may be hyperactive. We will always love you and be there for all of you. Love, mommy, daddy, Jacob, Devon and Marlena.

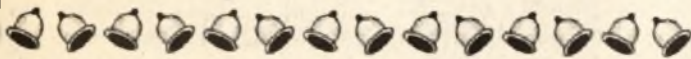
**On December 21st** a special little girl will turn 8 years old. Her name is Marlena Helena Georgina Saganash in Wemindji. We hope your day is as special as you are to us. We love you always and we miss you so much. All our love, daddy, mommy, Jacob, Stephane and Devon.

**Happy birthday** to our aunt Charlotte Gunner (Shorty) on November 18. hey auntie, better late than never. Just wanted to say we love you very much! and thanx for helping me around, even the little things you do. So glad you're my aunt. Too bad you couldn't celebrate it with your blue line.

*the Nation*



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## CLASSIFIEDS

Love Rachael, Allen and baby Christopher Robin. xixoxoxo  
**Wishing a happy 14th birthday** to my brother Travis Diamond (Waskaganish) on November 15, 1998. Sorry I send this out too late but at least I didn't forget your birthdays. Bro, I love you even though we have some tough times, that doesn't mean that I hate you, I love you. Once again happy birthday. With love, your sis JESSICA DIAMOND. P.S. HOPE YOU HAD A BLAST ON YOUR BIRTHDAY.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY SISTER DIANNE GEORGEKISH CHEEZO ON DECEMBER 24.** WISHING YOU THE BEST IN LIFE AND A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY. ONCE AGAIN HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY MORE YEARS TO COME. LOVE ALWAYS, YOUR SISTER MEL.

**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, JESSICA ON NOVEMBER 27, 1998.** JUST BEING THERE TO LISTEN TO ME MEANS SO

MUCH,. And a special, caring, understanding friend like you are forever. Once again, happy belated birthday and many more happy years to come. Friend always, Pamela.

**Happy birthday to a loving, caring sister Dianne Georgekish Cheezo on December 24, 1998.** Wishing you joy on your birthday and all the good things in life every day OF THE year. Once again happy birthday and many more wonderful happy years to come. Hope all your dreams and wishes come true. I love you sis no matter what. With love, your sis Pam.

**Happy birthday to my boyfriend in Pikogan (ED) on December 16.** From your girlfriend BT and your daughter Mary Lynne Dixon. We love you.

**Happy 15th birthday to my friend Erika Rupert on December 7, 98.** Wish you a good time and enjoy your day. From your friend Cindy. (Chisasibi)

**To my grandma Charlotte Wapachee.** Wanna to wish

happy birthday on December 15. We love you very much and you're the best super grandma in this world to us. God bless you grandma. Happy birthday. From our granddaughter. Irene M. and family. Love you xoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

### 102-WEDDINGS

**Marlene Etapp and George Dixon** are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Bertha Janie Dixon to Jimmy (Tim) Whiskeychan, son of Harry and Laura Shakabuskum from Waskaganish, Quebec. Proud grandparents are Isaac Etapp and Catherine Iserhoff from Senneterre, Quebec and the late grandparents are Juliette Shanoush and Freddie Dixon of Waswanipi, Quebec. A summer 1999 wedding is planned.

### 103-ANNIVERSARIES

**Happy 7th anniversary to Ri-**

**chard and Stella Mark (Wask)** on October 18th, 1991. I was just wondering if you were planning to have your 50th anniversary in Confortel (Ha, ha) But you guys still have a long ways to go. Well anyway, I was just wishing you both a happy life all thorough the years to come. P.S. Sorry for the lateness, Jennifer M. and kids.

**Happy 6th anniversary** to my brother Floyd and his wife Patricia on November 20th, 98 (wask). From Anita, Calvin and Meyaubuin Claire.

**Happy 23rd anniversary** to my parents Sally and Joseph Blacksmith on December 5, 98. Wishing you both happiness, love and healthy life together. May the Lord bless you both as you celebrate another anniversary together. Thank you for being loving, caring and sup-

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porting parents and also grandparents and we love you very much! Love, daughter Rachel and your first grandchild Christopher Robin. xox and Allen. xoxoxo

## 300-PERSONALS

**Hi to my friends,** Heidi Sharl, Marlene Shecapio and Natacha Moar. What's happening lately? Anyways have a great time and take good care of yourselves. See you soon I hope. From friend always, Melanie G. Mist. PS. I'll call you girls sometime. Bye.

**To Francine Weistche** and daughter. Just wanna give a little note of joy and happiness. Merry Christmas and happy new year and wishing you the best holiday with your

family. God bless you. Call me. From Irene Mianscum and family. Love you both. xxxoxoxoxo

**To the guy of my dreams...** Just wanted to tell you that you really mean a lot to me and I loved you right from the start. I think that you're truly something and I'm blessed to have found somebody like you. I will love you very way and any way I can remember you'll always be my only one. Love always, your girl. P.S. For all my life you'll be in my heart always no matter what happens.

**A heartfelt greetings** to my very best friend Clifford Mianscum. I wanna thank you for being there for me when I needed a someone to talk to

and also for giving me your shoulder to cry on. I know you have been through a lot yourself too and It wasn't easy for you but always remember you are strong and God has pulled you through even though at times it seemed impossible, if you ever need someone to talk to I am here to listen. Most of all I thank God for blessing me a very special friend like you. have a safe merry Christmas! Love, your friend Nancy.

**Hi to Rebecca Trapper,** Flora and Charlotte Shecapio FROM Mistissini. It's been a long time since the last the last time I've heard from you girls. Hope I'll see you girls soon. From your friend MG in Waskaganish.

**To my two friends Beth**

**Sealhunter and Pauline Lameboy** and your family. I'm sending a little message to both of you. ,Merry Christmas and happy new year and have a great time and don't party too much. From Irene Mianscum and family. Love you both. xoxoxoxoxo

**Bonjour Inc!** Merci for everything. It began in early May and still continues today. Hope trust and love you've given this heart. My heart still pounds when I see you. Holding you, I feel your soul. Close my eyes and I see your face. Missing you I hear your heart beat. Awakening in the a.m. I see your beautiful smile. As the holidays approach merci inc. (mtl) Wink and smile baby! Forever yours, Mel.

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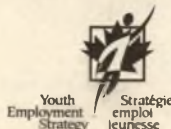
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The Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is pleased to announce:

### The Program Handbook 1999

The Program Handbook is now available in English and French. The Handbook contains information on the 1999 funding initiative and outlines the requirements for applications.

Based on consultations with Aboriginal people and organizations, four themes for funding have been developed. These themes are: Healing, Restoring Balance, Developing and Enhancing Aboriginal Capacities, and Honour and History.

The deadlines for applications are as follows:

#### **Program:**

#### **Deadline Date:**

Developing and Enhancing Aboriginal Capacities	January 15, 1999
Community Therapeutic Healing	January 15, 1999
Healing Centre Programs	February 26, 1999
Restoring Balance	March 31, 1999
Honour and History	March 31, 1999

### Logo Contest

We are looking for a logo! All Aboriginal people are invited to submit their designs to us by January 30, 1999. A cash prize of \$ 1,000 and a limited edition print "North American Indian Prison Camp" by George Littlechild will be awarded to the winner. The logo must be representative of all Aboriginal people in Canada.

#### **Information**

To obtain a copy of the Program Handbook or for more information on the logo contest, please call us toll free at **1-888-725-8886** or visit our Website at **[www.ahf.ca](http://www.ahf.ca)**

Season's Greetings